

Ruling reserved in rugby action

Mr Simon van Oppen, a former public schoolboy, could win £153,625 damages if the High Court finds that his old school was to blame for his crippling rugby injuries, it was disclosed yesterday. Mr Justice Boreham reserved judgement after hearing 26 days of evidence.

Mr van Oppen, aged 24, blames Bedford School for the spine injury he suffered after a head-on tackle went wrong in November 1980. He claims the school was negligent in not coaching him properly and in depriving him of compensation by not insuring him for accidental injury.

The school trustees deny the allegations. They have agreed, however, that Mr van Oppen, of Priory Lane, Roehampton, Surrey, will be entitled to £55,000 if it is found the school should have taken out insurance, and to the full amount if it was negligent in failing to coach him.

Call to ban all caning

The House of Lords is to be asked to ban caning in all public and other independent schools in line with the abolition of corporal punishment in state schools in August last year. Although Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, would prefer to leave the decision up to individual independent schools, there will be a strong challenge from peers to remove the anomaly. Lord Henderson of Brompton, has tabled an amendment to the Education Reform Bill inserting a new clause to extend the ban on corporal punishment to all schools.

Livingstone walk-out

Mr Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, withdrew from Parliament yesterday protesting at his lack of an office. He was being denied a desk and telephone because of his controversial views, he said, and was the only MP not to have those facilities. He said he would work from home, adding that it was impossible to serve his constituents in his present situation. Labour whips were waiting to see how his flouting of party discipline and the boycott operates in practice before deciding whether to take punitive action.

TV advert withdrawn

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, which gave £10,000 to the Conservative general election campaign, has withdrawn a television commercial for McEwans lager which uses a song critical of the Government. The song "Happy Days", by The Shamen, an Aberdeen group, is about the Falklands conflict. In a reference to the sinking of the Belgrano, the lyric includes: "There is a ship on the sea, shall we send it down? It's only a toy in a tub, shall we sink it now?" The company is commissioning another song for the commercial, part of a £1 million campaign on Scottish television yet to start.

Ballot on UDM fund

Miners belonging to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers are being urged to vote for a political fund in a ballot being organized by the union. Mr Rny Lynk, UDM president, said that the union was not allowed to use general funds to put across its point of view on issues such as the privatization of the electricity industry. A political fund was needed to enable the union to campaign vigorously on all issues affecting the membership. The UDM, which has about 25,000 members, will announce the result of the ballot at its annual conference in Weymouth in June.

40-year home loans

The Woolwich Building Society yesterday unveiled a 40-year mortgage specifically aimed at first-time buyers. The Woolwich, which at 9.5 per cent has the lowest rate among building societies, says it is the only mortgage of such a length deliberately intended for this market. It has an age limit of 25. The monthly cost of a £30,000 mortgage falls from £216.03 over 25 years to £193.83 over 40 years.

Strike hits morale of Dover seamen's families

By Ronald Faux
The strike is biting hard into the morale of the seamen who refuse to accept the company's new terms and into the morale of their families. Mrs Liz Caley, whose husband, Colin, was a P&O steward on the Dover-Calais service, helped at the soup kitchen set up in the Salvation Army hall in the centre of Dover, where free meals are provided daily after school hours.
"I am afraid of what's going to happen, and what all this could mean. There are three of us, with our daughter, Sarah, who is 15, and there's a lot to pay every month; mortgage and food. There's now nothing coming in. There has been no redundancy, and we do not qualify for social security, because they say it's a dispute. We have had

People seeking to cross the Channel over the holiday weekend were warned yesterday not to go to the ports without ensuring in advance that they had a firm booking. These services are expected to operate:
SEALINK: Dover to Calais: eight sailings a day each way. Newhaven to Dieppe: three sailings a day each way. Weymouth to Cherbourg: one sailing a day each way. Portsmouth to Cherbourg: two sailings each way today and tomorrow; one each way on Monday. Harwich to the Hook of

Holland: two sailings a day each way.
P&O: Dover to Ostende: seven ferry crossings a day each way and four Jetfoil crossings a day for foot passengers. These vessels are owned by the Belgian state-owned company RMT, but P&O markets their operations in Britain. P&O expect to have one crossing a day from Portsmouth to Cherbourg, and three from Portsmouth to Le Havre.
BRITANNY: Portsmouth to St Malo and Caen; Plymouth to

Roscoff: normal services, but all fully booked.
SALLY LINES: Ramsgate to Dunkirk: five sailings a day each way.
NORTH SEA FERRIES, which is a joint operation by P&O and the Dutch company, Nedlloyd, expect to have one sailing a day from Hull to either Rotterdam or Zeebrugge.
HOVERSPEED: Dover to Calais: 13 crossings a day each way. Dover to Boulogne: five crossings a day each way.

focal point in all the families in the same position. "It's a relief to know we are all in the same boat, that we are not isolated. But, quite honestly, I would rather that it came to this than have Colin go back under P&O's terms. I don't think they have thought about safety at all which is surprising after what happened to the Herald."
Giving support to the strikers was Mrs Gail Cook, who was a stewardess in the Herald of Free Enterprise, but who had left after the disaster. "It's not my job on the line, but I support them a hundred per cent."
Outside the Salvation Army hall hallstones bounced off the pavement. Inside, Mr Jim Smith, aged 52, a senior chief cook with P&O, prepared meals for more than 100 strikers, their wives and children at a "soup kitchen".

Benefit cuts restored for more groups

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor
Further changes to the new welfare regulations were announced yesterday to moderate losses to specific groups.
Six weeks after a minister said nothing could be done for 19-year-olds in full time education without parental support, they will now be helped.
Tory backbenchers want the Government to collect detailed information on the impact of the changes and to tackle any further anomalies in the autumn expenditure statement.
The MPs were determined not to embarrass the Government any further, although some remain concerned about the impact of the changes.
They will watch their post-bags and monitor the reaction at their constituency surgeries during the next few weeks and make further representations in ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security if necessary.
One backbencher said: "We don't want any more knee jerk reactions and special payments. That would make us look ridiculous. The whole thing has to be assessed calmly in the summer as part of the public expenditure round."
Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, yesterday announced three further rule changes to give transitional protection to vulnerable people on income-related benefits at a cost of about £1 million.
In a Commons written reply, Mr Scott said that the Government would provide transitional protection for disabled people, lone parents and pensioners who were receiving supplementary benefit under the old system but who were not entitled to new benefits because of changes in the rules relating to full-time work in the switch to the income support scheme.
Students who would have lost benefit when they became 19 would be protected from the effects of the change by payments from the special central unit in the DHSS.
In the Commons Mrs Thatcher called Wednesday's £100 million addition to the £46 billion social security budget "a modest adjustment but effective to deal with the problems".
Parliament, page 12
Leading article and letters, page 15

Pupils reveal newspaper skills



Sir Alastair Burnet presenting awards to Neil Gibbs and Kerry Johnson, representing Sitwell Junior School, Rotherham, one of the winners of a newspaper competition organized by The Times Network Systems (Photograph: Alan Weller).
By Robin Young
Sir Alastair Burnet, a national director of Times Newspapers, yesterday presented prizes to the schools which produced the best newspapers in a competition organized by The Times Network Systems, an electronic communication and information service for schools and colleges to which more than 5,000 educational establishments subscribe.
First prize in the primary school section went to the *Silicon Star* produced by Sitwell Junior School, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, where pupils aged seven to 11 had their teacher doubling as a television aerial so that they could download stories from the Ceefax and Oracle teletext news services into their computer software.
The *Aston Comet* produced by a group of mixed ability pupils aged 14 to 15 at Aston Comprehensive School, Swallowstone, Rotherham, which took first prize in the secondary school competition for under-15s, remade its front page after school hours to take in coverage of the avalanche at Klosters, Switzerland, which hit the Prince of Wales's skiing party.
The winner in the open class, *Freelance*, produced by pupils at the Mortimer Wilson Comprehensive, Alfreton, Derbyshire, had a front page story about a police manhunt at a local beauty spot. An award for the best overseas entry went to Sadadee Secondary College, Alice Springs, Australia.
The panel of judges was chaired by Sir Edward Pickering, executive vice chairman of News International. The next Newspaper Day competition which TTNS is organizing will be for papers produced on September 29, during the Seoul Olympics.
● The first edition of *Retirement World*, a national monthly tabloid aimed at the wealthier band of pensioners, will be published next month.
● A glossy "lifestyle" magazine, *Catalyst*, edited by Michael Parkinson, the journalist and television personality, was launched yesterday by Austin Rover.

RUMBELOWS PRESENT LEADING EDGE AUDIO TECHNOLOGY THE PIONEER S2MCD SYSTEM

There are those who will be thrilled by the news that the S2MCD system has a PD-281M CD multiplay which holds and plays six discs with a 2 x oversampling digital filter and a twin D/A converter; not to mention a honeycomb chassis.

And there will be others who will just glaze over.

Audio buffs will be eager to know about the quartz synthesised digital tuner with 24 random presets, frequency display and timer.

And there will be others who will twitch nervously.

There are bound to be a few who get excited when they hear that the tape deck comes with CD synchro auto reverse record and dual auto reverse playback. Or positively overjoyed about the infra-red remote and 40 watts per channel.

And there will be others who will simply prefer to know that the Pioneer CD Midi System range plays great music and costs from £499.99 at Rumbelows.

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32 TRACKS IN ANY ORDER

STACKS AND PLAYS UP TO 6 COMPACT DISCS AT ONCE

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Jeweller who fled to Spain with £1m pleads guilty to theft

By Craig Seton

A Midlands jeweller who fled to Spain five years ago after stripping his shops of gold, silver, gems and cash worth more than £1 million, pleaded guilty to theft charges at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

The court was told that Robert Chatwin, aged 46, who returned voluntarily to Britain last September, had claimed that he received none of the jewellery or cash he stole in January 1983 after his business ran into serious financial difficulty.

He had alleged to the West Midlands police that a solicitor had first suggested that he should take his company's money and flee to a country which did not have an extradition treaty with Britain.

He had also claimed in his statements that after changing his mind about taking all of the stolen gems and cash to Spain so that it could be returned to his company, an accomplice involved in the crime, who was named as Malcolm Ross, a property

dealer, had disappeared with the stolen goods.

The court was told that although most of the jewellery was quickly recovered by police in unusual circumstances, £180,000 in cash was never recovered.

Chatwin, formerly of Home Farm House, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, pleaded guilty to theft of jewellery worth more than £1 million, £180,000 in cash and 10 other charges, nine of deception involving more than £200,000 from falsely raising mortgage.

Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, for the prosecution, said Chatwin's "dramatic flight" to Spain came immediately after the thefts from his chain of six jewellery shops in the Midlands.

Mr Palmer said that Chatwin's business was short of working capital and he had decided to buy substantial stock in the hope of good trade during Christmas 1982. However, the trade did not go as well as he hoped and he decided to leave, buying a speedboat with an enlarged fuel tank and making arrangements for his furniture to be taken to Spain.

Mr Palmer said that in October 1982, Chatwin had ordered extraordinary amounts of stock for his shops at Sutton Coldfield, Rugby, Stratford-upon-Avon, Solihull, Droitwich and Malvern.

Shortly before Christmas 1982, he had held a party at his house for staff and had told them that an American consortium had agreed to inject money into his company. Between January 2 and January 9, 1983, he shut the shops for stock-taking while

making plans to buy a property in Spain.

Chatwin had alleged that Mr Ross was to have taken the stock stolen from the shops in return for a property in Spain. Chatwin claimed that it was Mr Ross who planted in his mind that he should not just steal money from his business but jewellery as well.

The idea was that the two men would eventually sell the jewellery in Switzerland. It was to be taken first to Spain, together with the cash stolen, hidden in the petrol tank of the speedboat.

The court was told that Mr Ross was to join the Plymouth to Santander ferry driving a Mercedes pulling the speedboat while Chatwin drove another Mercedes pulling a caravan.

However, Chatwin had claimed that on January 4, 1983, at a West Country service station he had told Mr Ross that he had had a last-minute change of mind and wanted to return all the jewellery and £80,000 cash.

Mr Palmer said that according to Chatwin the two men argued about that and Mr Ross left driving the Mercedes pulling the speedboat.

He said that on January 13 a London solicitor known to act for Mr Ross delivered to police 15 bags of jewellery, followed a few days later by another bag. Later in 1983, the Mercedes which had been driven by Mr Ross was found at a hotel in Dublin.

Graham Richards, aged 43, a self-employed greengrocer, of Rugby, Warwickshire, pleaded guilty yesterday to three joint charges of deception with Chatwin. The case was adjourned until today.



Robert Chatwin, returned voluntarily to Britain.

Sympathy for businessman who failed attempt at crime

Robert Chatwin, the apparently wealthy owner of six Midlands jewellery shops, proved to be a failure in business and an even bigger failure at crime.

Even the police who waited five years for his voluntary return from Spain came to have some sympathy for his downfall.

The middle-class son of a jeweller, Chatwin lived in a big manor house at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, with his wife and two daughters, owning expensive cars and an ocean-going yacht.

However, by Christmas 1982, four years after he opened his chain of shops, Chatwin's apparent affluence hid a crumbling business and growing debts, accelerated by the collapse of the gold market.

Facing ruin, he decided to steal from his own business and flee to Spain, where he knew other British criminals flourished out of the reach of British justice.

While his wife, Carolyn, and daughters, Julia and Jenny, were on a new year holiday in the United States, Chatwin took gold, silver, gems and other jewellery with a retail value of £1 million and £180,000 in takings from

his shops and disappeared. He left behind empty shops, unpaid staff and creditors. Under a pillow at their home, his family found a note of farewell and £100.

On January 6, 1983, West Midlands police began an investigation into his disappearance. However, the previous day, Chatwin had fled to Spain on a ferry from Plymouth. However, the stolen gems never arrived. Less than 10 days after he disappeared, 15 polythene bags filled with jewellery were dumped at the office of a London solicitor acting for Chatwin and reports that he had decided to hand them back because threats had been made on his life.

More gems were recovered in the Midlands. Detectives spent six months cataloguing 21,986 items of jewellery worth £1 million at wholesale value. However, they say they will never know whether all the gems have been traced because there are no records.

The estimated £180,000 in Christmas takings from Chatwin's shops has never been recovered. The police assume that the jeweller's accomplices kept the money.

Within days of arriving in Spain, Chatwin was arrested and charged with smuggling when Spanish police found gems worth £50,000 at his villa after an anonymous tip-off. At that time, he had only £3,500 in a Spanish bank account.

Chatwin spent six months in a Spanish jail. When he was released, almost penniless and with failing eyesight, he was still out of reach of the British police because an extradition treaty with Spain was signed after he arrived on the Costa Blanca.

Knowing he was at least temporarily safe, Chatwin confessed openly to Detective Superintendent John Franklin and Chief Inspector Clive Mole, of the West Midlands police. Mr Franklin said: "He was quite honest and fairly open about his involvement. He promised that one day he would return to face the music, as he put it, and that promise has been fulfilled."

"As far as we are concerned he never received anything from the stolen property while he was in Spain."

Chatwin's wife later divorced him and remarried. He started a business selling villas in Denia which also failed.

A receiver is handling Chatwin's affairs.

Moscow circus comes to town



Ryashim Annayev, of Moscow State Circus, calming one of its horses yesterday after it arrived at Gatwick airport. The circus, featuring 70 artistes from throughout the Soviet Union, plays at Battersea Park, south-west London, from Sunday until May 15. A gala performance in front of the Princess of Wales is scheduled for Thursday (Photograph: Peter Trivno).

EEC may put ban on public smoking

Smoking could be banned in public places throughout Europe by 1992 as part of a co-ordinated campaign against cancer which aims to save 150,000 lives by the end of the century.

M Michel Richonnier, co-ordinator of the Europe Against Cancer campaign, disclosed yesterday that the European Commission is to recommend a smoking ban in areas such as public transport, restaurants and cinemas at the June meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Health ministers will also be pressed to introduce smoking zones in the work place.

Speaking at the launch of the European Against Cancer Week, which starts on May 1, M Richonnier said that under the Commission's proposals cigarette prices in England, Ireland and West Germany would not fall in the harmonization of taxes for the single market in 1992, as small

individuals who are married not only contract less cancer than single people but, if they fall victim to the disease, appear to live longer than their unmarried counterparts.

Survival rates of married cancer sufferers when compared with single victims of the same age are similar to unmarried who are 10 years younger.

Led by Mr James Goodwin, of the Medical College of Wisconsin, in the United States, the researchers discovered that married people were more likely to seek early diagnosis and treatment.

The researchers believe the findings highlight how partner and family support can lower stress and contribute to improved health.

Dr John Bonn, a stress expert at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, said the American findings seemed to confirm other investigations on stress and ill health.

Ms Edwina Currie, the junior health minister, backed the 10-point European code for preventing cancer and announced a £100,000 boost for British projects during next week's public education campaign.

Britain has the highest incidence of both lung and breast cancer in Europe. One in three Britons will develop some form of cancer, and one in five will die from it.

Ms Currie said the problem is growing. In 1983 there were 4,300 new cases per million population per year, but by last year this figure had risen to 4,700 and is expected to rise to 5,300 per million by 1994, mainly as a result of the growing number of elderly people and new advances in detecting the disease.

She said lung cancer was dropping among men but the number of women, particularly in their twenties, suffering from lung cancer had increased by about a quarter.

She made a plea for "smoke-free relationships" and told young women they would turn into "grumpy old ladies" by the age of 50 if they continued smoking.

The code which has been adopted by all 12 European Community nations, also advises women to have regular cervical smear tests, to examine their breasts monthly and for those over 50 to attend mammography screening.

Pressure grows over stabbing

By Ian Smith

Pressure mounted yesterday for immediate publication of the controversial report into the playground stabbing of a pupil aged 13 at a Manchester secondary school.

Teaching and non-teaching staff at Burnage High School said any criticisms contained in the report were best brought into the open so they could be fairly discussed and acted upon where necessary.

Staff committee members asked Manchester City Council education committee and school governors to ensure that work necessary to restore racial harmony at the school should be conducted in a sensitive, non-threatening and non-divisive way.

The Manchester Council for Community Relations criticized the city council for refusing to publish the report by Mr Ian MacDonald, QC, after a nine-month inquiry into anti-racist policies at the school.

The council had undertaken to make public the report's contents when it agreed to commission the inquiry but had failed to live up to that promise, the group said.

The city council said copies of the report had not been printed after advice that it could result in legal action against the authority. A legally-approved substitute is expected to be presented next month.

Ramsden insured for £3m

The life of Mr Terry Ramsden, the businessman and racehorse owner, was insured for £3 million by a stockbroking firm for which he worked, a court was told yesterday.

The value put on his services was revealed by the defence at Southwark Crown Court, south London, where Mr Ramsden denies a charge of fraudulently evading payment of value added tax between January 7, 1984, and January 22, 1985.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, said that Mr Ramsden earned millions in commission from introducing clients to T C Coombs and advising on investments. The firm had insured his life for £3 million.

The court was told that Mr Ramsden, of Nevendon Road, Wickford, Essex, left school at the age of 16 to work as an insurance clerk, but moved to Hedderwicks, the stockbrokers, where his qualities were recognized and he was promoted to the "dealing area" at the age of 21.

One of the brokers, Mr Patrick Mahon, aged 48, realized Mr Ramsden's financial genius, it was said, and used him as a freelance agent when he set up T C Coombs.

However, Mr Ramsden, now aged 36, got into difficulties when an administrative error meant that his share of T C Coombs with a cash shortfall. He was paid no commission and gave T C Coombs power to control his

personal finances until the shortfall was made good. Solicitors for T C Coombs investigated the deals in 1982 and discovered that many of the clients that Mr Ramsden brought to the company were nominee companies under his control.

Mr Arlidge said that the solicitors were critical of both T C Coombs and Mr Ramsden, who is alleged to have failed to pay VAT mainly on retainers and commissions from the firm. The court was told that between 1979 and 1985 his turnover in share dealing came to £3,058,965,417.

Mr Arlidge said that Mr Ramsden paid the outstanding bill of £536,000 for VAT. The trial continues today.

Museum charges opposed

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Two of Britain's leading scientific institutions yesterday criticized the decision of the Science Museum in south-west London to introduce admissions charges to October.

The Institute of Physics and the British Association for the Advancement of Science expressed concern that the charges, likely to be about £2 for adults and £1 for children, will hinder efforts to make more young people interested in science and technology.

Reaction among visitors to the museum yesterday was strongly against the charges.

Mrs Christine Ahmed, a teacher at the Sarah Bonnell Girls' School, east London, surrounded by her party of 90 girls, said: "It is terrible and totally unacceptable. It will cut down on the number of children who will come here."

Dr Louis Cohen, executive secretary of the Institute of Physics, said that he was "dismayed" by the decision.

He said: "We need young people to have an interest in science, and I would not want to see anything getting in the way of that."

Dr Malcolm Frazer, chairman of the British Association, said he appreciated that people should be asked to make a contribution to services the museum provided. "Any changes which will deter people from experiencing what the museum has to offer must be regretted."

Dr Neil Cossons, director of the museum, said the trustees had made the decision to charge admission reluctantly.

"The museum is wearing out at a faster rate than it is being renewed," he said. There would still be free admission between 4.30pm and 6pm every day.

Telecom third in Euro directories contest

By Michael Dynes

British Telecom has come joint third in a survey to nominate the best telephone directory in the EEC.

Each country was invited to submit a sample of a white and of a yellow directory for a panel of judges representing member states to study. Telecom would probably have done better, it is understood, if it had not forgotten the Yellow Pages.

As it was, *The Phone Book A-D* (London) scored highly. Mrs Vivian Peters, director of Britain's Telecommunications Users Association and one of the judges, said: "From an artistic point of view, Britain's directory came out very well."

"But as a directory serving the capital city, it did not give sufficient information on the city itself, particularly as far as visitors were concerned."

Competition was extremely stiff, Mrs Peters said. Some of the directories had maps and tourist guides.

The winner was the *Hamburg Telephone Directory* from West Germany. Belgium was second, with France and Italy third alongside Britain. Luxembourg pipped Greece for bottom place.

The competition was the idea of a Paris-based consumer organization, the Institute for Economic and Social Research in Telecommunications.

Entries were assessed on the basis of 15 questions designed to evaluate attractiveness, layout, reference keys and provision of emergency numbers.

Resorts are urged to improve beaches

By John Young

A campaign is to be launched next week to persuade more British seaside resorts to clean their beaches.

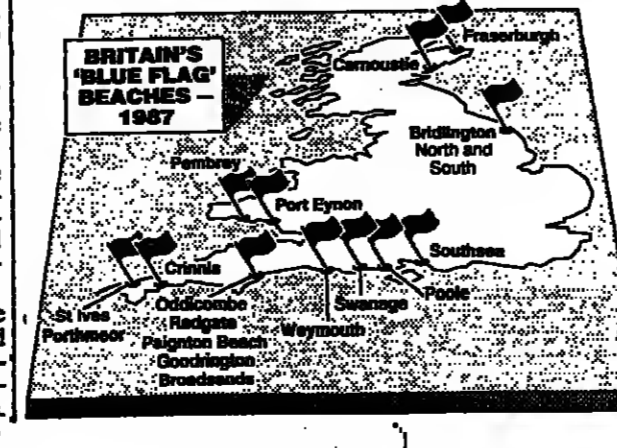
Last year the Department of the Environment said that 228 out of 368 bathing areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland met the standards laid down in an EEC directive on water quality. Only 17 beaches, two of them in Scotland, met the "blue flag" criteria stipulated by the European Foundation for Environmental Education.

Nearly half of those inspected had litter or suffered from dog fouling. Thirty per cent lacked litter bins, 15 per cent showed evidence of industrial pollution and 10 per cent were oil polluted.

The flag scheme is organized by the Tidy Britain Group, with the support of the Water Authorities Association. To qualify, a beach must be regularly used by large numbers of people and be managed by its owners.

A beach should be free of industrial or sewage discharges, litter and oil pollution; provide and maintain adequate first aid and sanitary facilities; be equipped with lifeguards, life-saving equipment and public telephones; and be cleaned regularly and supplied with litter bins.

A further requirement this year is that dogs should be banned from the beach during the holiday season. Professor



Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator
Winner to celebrate ruby day

Mr Jim Jenkyn, a retired postmaster, plans to make his ruby wedding celebrations in three weeks an extra special occasion thanks to his £2,000 share in the daily Portfolio competition.

Mr Jenkyn, aged 67, of Walkers Green, Marden, Hereford and Worcester, said he had been playing the competition since it started without success.

"It came as a complete surprise, but it will come in useful, as we Cornishmen say. My wife, Betty, and I are celebrating our ruby wedding with daughters and this will help us to do it in style."

Also sharing the prize is Mr Barry Oughton, of Lakeside, Tring, Hertfordshire.

TOMORROW

The Times Property Guide

Tomorrow's full-colour, 16-page Times Property Guide describes the appeal of the Alps, the delights of Devon, and the mansion that became smart flats

MP's plea for drugs informant

By Ian Smith

Infiltration of a big drugs network by police was aborted last night and an informant was rushed to a secret address after an MP disclosed details of the undercover operations.

Instead of leading detectives to the masterminds behind a cocaine-smuggling gang planning to import huge consignments of the drug to Britain, the informant, aged 40, was in hiding, under police guard, and in fear of his life.

Mr Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, yesterday announced details of covert operations already carried out.

Mr Sheerman said he was first approached two months ago by the informant who gave a false name of Pepe Jimenez. The man said he believed the police had reneged on promises to provide him with money, a new name and false identity to start a new life in a foreign country.

The MP said Jimenez told him: "Police say I've provided them with more information in 10 months than they had previously amassed in 20 years. Yet now they are not keeping their word so I'm left to the mercy of murderers hunting me worldwide."

Questions will next week be tabled to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, demanding to know why police have allegedly not honoured their pledge.

Mr Sheerman said he had been trying "behind the scenes" for two months to obtain justice for the man.

"Finally I felt there was no alternative but to bring this scandalous situation to public attention," he said.

Detective Chief Supt Ronald Sagar, head of Number Three Regional Crime Squad, based in Wakefield, said the informant had been of "immeasurable help" but said the police were alarmed about the revelations on undercover work.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Artist sold 2,500 fake masterpieces

Bonn (AP) - A West German painter produced about 2,500 fake art masterpieces that were sold for millions of marks over 13 years in what is one of Europe's biggest art scandals.

Bank workers strike

Lagos (AFP) - Bank and insurance workers in Lagos are striking in protest against an increase in the price of petroleum products which came into effect on April 10.

Some large banks in the Nigerian capital were closed on Wednesday, while at other only senior members of staff were present for administrative work.

Singapore releases 8

Singapore (Reuters) - Eight former prisoners who were arrested last week have withdrawn claims that they were tortured while in detention last year.

It said the eight former detainees and their lawyer, who were arrested on April 19, affirmed in sworn statutory declarations that their allegations of torture were "fabricated" to discredit the Government.

North Cyprus crisis

Nicosia (AP) - The head of the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus resigned yesterday after a disagreement with a coalition party demanding more seats in the Cabinet.

The chairman of the New Birth Party, which had only one seat in the parliament, demanded that three more ministerial posts be given to members of his party in order to continue the party's partnership in the coalition.

Grapefruit cleared

Rome (Reuters) - A senior Italian scientist said yesterday that Israeli grapefruit at the centre of a poison scare contained no toxic substances and that a government ban on grapefruit sales could be lifted.

Jackson keeps party guessing

Philadelphia The most critical question in American politics at this moment is whether Mr Michael Dukakis can reach an understanding with the Rev Jesse Jackson.



Geoffrey Smith

The question is put most simply and crudely in terms of whether Mr Jackson will be Mr Dukakis's running mate.

Mr Dukakis must know that that would destroy his chances of getting to the White House.

Perhaps it always has been. He told one of his supporters early on that what mattered was to play in the Super Bowl, not necessarily to win it.

But he is in quite such a strong position to exercise pressure after his heavy defeat in the Pennsylvania primary this week.

The strength of his campaign has lain in his ability to mobilize the black vote, in his appeal to the white protest vote as the most left-wing of the candidates.

As his success far exceeded expectations, so the campaign was buoyed up by the intoxicating hope that the incredible was about to happen.

I would doubt if Mr Jackson himself even means to be the vice-presidential candidate. He would be subjected to inhibiting restraints, never speaking out of turn, and then risk incurring the blame himself if the Democrats were defeated.

Nor do I believe that he is seeking the promise of a cabinet post. That also would be too confining. So what is in prospect is not a traditional deal where the allegiance of a

powerful politician is bought by the offer of a place. To expect that would seem to me to mistake both Mr Jackson's interest and the nature of his campaign. It has reached the stage where it appears to be as much a quest for respect and influence as for votes.

Mr Gerald Austin, Mr Jackson's national campaign manager, told me that he expected him to be campaigning very enthusiastically for whoever the candidate is. He went on to say that Mr Jackson did not believe he should have a veto over who is the vice-presidential candidate and that there will not be difficulty in persuading Mr Jackson to support someone who would strengthen the ticket.

So I do not think it should be too hard for Mr Dukakis and Mr Jackson to reach an understanding. But there may still be difficulty in persuading black voters that their man has not been cheated when he is the runner-up but not the runner-down. It may therefore be critical for Mr Jackson to exclude himself from the ticket before Mr Dukakis has to exclude him.

Oil drives Iraq's economy but jams roads

From Paul Vallely Baghdad

Even when three missiles a day were falling on Baghdad earlier this year, more people were being killed on the roads here than in the war.

Iraqis are not the world's best drivers. There are eight times more road deaths per vehicle in Iraq than in the United States, one mechanized American resident told me.

Moreover, the roads in Iraq are never empty. The six-lane highways out of the capital are constantly jammed with traffic, much of it heavy lorries and tankers. With its main port at Basra closed by Iranian bombardment and access limited at the secondary Gulfport of Um Kasr, the vast bulk of imports and exports are carried by road.

About 250,000 barrels of oil are exported by lorry through Jordan and Turkey daily. For an oil-producing country this was, at one point, a severe restriction, especially after Syria, in support of Iraq, closed one of Iraq's two main pipelines to the sea. Oil sales dropped from a prewar level of 3.5 million barrels per day to only 0.65 million at the worst point in 1982. The economic

problems this caused were compounded as Iraq continued to spend during the first three years of the war as it had done before. By 1983 expensive development projects had eaten away its entire \$35 billion (almost £20 billion) reserves and created substantial debts.

By 1986, the economy was in crisis. The war, which was costing as much as \$1 billion a month, had eased after the early years of fierce fighting and large offensives, but the national debt had risen to \$55 billion. That year, the price of oil fell below \$10 a barrel.

Iraq stopped honouring its letters of credit, which meant that many foreigners refused to trade and imports were severely reduced. The country began to default on repayments, and entered a complex series of rescheduling negotiations. Yet this year, with the national debt at \$60 billion (not including weapons purchases) and the war eating up \$7 billion of an estimated income of around \$13 billion, all the economic analysts here agree that things are looking a lot brighter.

There are five main reasons. Firstly, Iraq has two new pipelines. As well as boosting its original line

across Turkey, it has built a second which opened last June. A third now exists across Saudi Arabia and a fourth is being built.

Secondly, the price of oil has rallied, and the US dollar (in which oil prices are fixed) is more stable. Thirdly, Iraq has slashed its import bill by as much as two-thirds. Fourthly, much of the debt has been rescheduled, although the terms are not as generous as Iraq had hoped for. And the country is once more honouring its letters of credit.

But the most interesting element in the recovery is President Saddam Hussein's internal reform package - a programme which one diplomat here described as "pure Thatcherism". For a regime which is nominally socialist and models its political, security and economic systems on the Soviet Union the reforms are dramatic.

The President has cut away an entire level of bureaucracy between ministries and the managers of the state-owned oil, date, and electricity industries. Other industries which are regarded as non-strategic are being privatized. The effects are already evident in transport, distribution and, most noticeably, agri-

culture. Price controls, quota systems and other regulations have been abolished. Farmers have the incentive to produce more, and the shops and bazaars are full.

Improved private distribution has eliminated the shortages of soap powder, butter, milk, chickens, and even tea and rice, which were common. Incentives have been created for increased private enterprise. Merchants, under a recent decree, are allowed to import without a licence, provided they buy with savings abroad. "No questions will be asked" about the provenance of cashes in the foreign banks.

Most remarkably for a state which has no less than three security organizations, another presidential decree has instructed the police and security forces not to interfere with traders and shopkeepers.

In addition to increased efficiency and import substitution, the initiative is saving \$500 million annually which it formerly gave in subsidies on staple foods and transport. "The economy is considerably more buoyant than last year," an economist said. "We may even be coming into another boom period."

Turkey, which is owed \$1.8 billion, has since the beginning of this month suspended all future credits. Though debt rescheduling has been settled with the French (on favourable terms to Paris, for the French supply Mirage jets to Iraq) and with West Germany (whose contractors want to be in Iraq's good books if the boom comes), the situation is less than happy with the Japanese, who are owed well more than \$2 billion. Moreover, 1989 is crunch year for much of the debt. Many loans come to maturity then. Nevertheless, most of the financial community seems prepared to bear with Iraq. A Western financial expert said: "The country has 100 billion barrels of oil in reserve. Oil experts say it probably has the largest oil reserves in the world, they just haven't found it all yet."

Iraq also has 12 million hectares between the Tigris and the Euphrates of the most fertile agricultural land in the Middle East. It has a comparatively well-educated population. Its true potential can never be realized while the Gulf War continues. But the last year has shown that, so long as oil prices hold, some progress can be made.

Chirac prepares to outlaw Kanak group

From Mark Baker, Noumea, and Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories, M Bernard Pons, said in Noumea last night that he intended to outlaw the main independence party in New Caledonia because it was involved in political violence and the kidnapping of 24 gendarmes and a prosecutor.

He said police had told him that the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front was implicated in violence, including the hacking to death of four French gendarmes last Friday.

He will propose to the French Cabinet that the separatist group be dissolved, making membership of it a crime. The move is likely to create fresh political tensions in Paris, where campaigning is continuing in the French presidential election.

Such a decree would require a Council of Ministers meeting and the approval of both the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, and President Mitterrand, rivals for the presidency.

M Léopold Joredic, secretary-general of the Union Caledonienne, the main group in the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, said: "The only way to suppress the demands of the Kanaks is to eliminate us all."

France began to airlift 250 marines to reinforce its troops as the Kanak rebellion spread further into the Loyalty Islands. Armed Melanesians built roadblocks to prevent troops reaching a besieged police station on the island of Maré. French officials said that there had been shooting on the island, where an undisclosed number of gen-



A gendarme saluting the coffin of a colleague yesterday who was hacked to death by Kanak rebels on Ouvéa last week.

darmes were barricaded in the police station. Earlier, separatists on Ouvéa freed the head of France's anti-terrorist squad captured after a French magistrate and six gendarmes tumbled into a trap and were taken prisoner to join 16 gendarmes held hostage in a cave by 15 Kanaks.

Official sources said that Captain Philippe Ligojous, head of the National Gendarmerie Intervention Group, persuaded his captors to free him to negotiate the fate of his comrades and the state prosecutor, M Jean Bianconi.

M Pons attended the funeral in Noumea for three gendarmes hacked to death during an attack on a police barracks at Ouvéa six days ago, when the first group of hostages was taken. French flags draped the coffins and prayers were said during the emotional service for the safety of the people now being held.

The impact of the crisis in New Caledonia on the final stage of the French presidential election campaign was again evident in Paris. Sources close to M Chirac said that he would announce today whether the Government would seek to outlaw the Kanak separatist organization.

The request for an immediate ban by M Pons came as M Chirac was preparing for his television confrontation with M Mitterrand. The Government's extreme sensitivity to what it terms "outside interference" in the South Pacific territory was also evident again yesterday. New Zealand's Ambassador in Paris, Mrs Judith Trotter,

was summoned to the Foreign Ministry for the same sharp rebuke her Australian counterpart received on Wednesday. Ministry sources said Mrs Trotter was firmly informed of France's "astonishment" at recent comments by New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange.

In considering whether to seek the dissolution of the separatist movement, which can only be done by the Council of Ministers, M Chirac faces a tricky strategic decision. It appears that M Mitterrand alone can summon the council and that his signature will be required for any decree.

It is no secret that M Mitterrand disagrees strongly with the Government's handling of the New Caledonia issue, which was denounced by the head of the Socialist parliamentary group as "risky and unreasonable".

Another indication of the domestic political tension caused by the crisis was the writ for defamation issued yesterday by M Jean-Louis Bianco, a senior presidential aide at the Elysée Palace, in the wake of comments by the secretary-general of M Chirac's party.

In a radio interview, M Patrick Devedjian had asserted that the renewed campaign of violence by the separatists came after a meeting between M Bianco and separatist leaders a few days ago. "They clearly received encouragement from high places," he alleged.

The Defence Minister, M André Giraud, emphasized yesterday that "no solution is possible until the hostages have been set free." Although he believed the situation was becoming less tense, M Giraud said that the authority of the state had to be restored.

M Giraud declined to comment on how the anti-terrorist team, specially trained in dealing with hostage takers, had come to be captured by a lightly-armed separatist unit.

US pressure for cost-sharing Nato nearer to nuclear accord

From Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, Brussels

Nato governments yesterday took another tentative step towards modernizing nuclear weapons systems in Europe with an agreement by defence ministers in Brussels to endorse the development of new missiles. But the choice of weapons and decisions on deployment were left aside.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, speaking after his first Nato Nuclear Planning Group meeting said that he could return to Washington with a message for Congress that America's allies supported "a full exploration" of all the possibilities for replacing the existing short-range Lance missile and selecting an air-to-surface stand-off weapon.

But he emphasized that the fundamental principle of the Alliance was to share "in the cost of deterrence as well as its benefits". To underline the point that the Alliance could not escape paying the bills for nuclear defence in Europe, he then revealed that he is sending Mr William Taft, his deputy secretary, to Europe shortly to consult allied governments about "the responsibility and risks" of a common defence strategy. Congress, he said, was showing a particular interest in this issue and Mr Taft

would be reporting back as soon as he had returned from Europe. The clear implication of Mr Carlucci's remarks was that Washington intends to keep up the pressure on Nato allies over modernizing the nuclear weapons systems deployed with allied forces in Europe.

Although the United States is examining a number of weapons systems for its own forces, Washington wanted a firm nod of approval from Europe to demonstrate solidarity on this key issue of modernization. At the meeting, allies, particularly West Germany, who had previously expressed political alarm at the prospect of authorizing a nuclear modernization programme so soon after the signing of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, were content to support the development of systems without having to accept any date for deployment.

This "step by step" approach, which has been characteristic of Nato's strategy for years, has let the doubters off the hook, but has also given the Americans, strongly backed by Britain, the assurance that when the day of decision comes, the West Germans will go along with

deployment of the new systems on their soil. Mr Carlucci indicated confidence that he could persuade Congress to back development of a successor to Lance. Although there are "four or five" systems under examination at present, the favourite is a nuclear version of the US Army Tactical Missile System, although Congress will have to lift a restriction before development could go ahead.

Under a long-standing military requirement drawn up by the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, currently General John Galvin, the Lance missile is recommended for replacement in about 1992 and a new stand-off air-launched cruise missile for Nato dual-capable aircraft in the mid to late 1990s.

Yesterday Mr Carlucci emphasized that modernization was already under way. He said: "Dual-capable aircraft are being modernized. Nuclear artillery is being modernized. In terms of Lance, there has been a decision that there should be a Lance follow-on."

"We haven't yet determined what the range should be, nor what the requirements are. But we are some time away from any deployment decision, so there is no need for the Alliance as such to make any decision right now."

The communiqué published after the meeting outlines the new spirit of agreement over modernization. It says: "We have confirmed that the forces remaining after the INF treaty must be kept survivable, responsive and effective and structured in an adequate and balanced way. We also endorse our step-by-step approach towards the measures necessary to achieve our objectives and have provided further guidance on the way ahead."

Ligachov's future in doubt as he misses meetings

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

The absence of Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Kremlin second in command, at two Communist Party meetings on ideology - his sphere - sparked fresh speculation yesterday that his responsibilities had been taken over by a close associate of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader.

Rumours had circulated earlier this month that Mr Ligachov, aged 67, had lost at least part of his portfolio to Mr Alexander Yakovlev, Mr Gorbachov's ally, after an apparently unsuccessful conservative challenge to reform mounted by the daily newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya*.

At a press conference, Mr Vadim Pefilyayev, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, refused to comment on Mr Ligachov's absence from the meetings on Wednesday, saying that he had already denied last week that there had been a "redistribution of duties" within the Politburo.

Mr Ligachov, however, is the official Communist Party ideological watchdog, whose duties are said to include supervision of the press and television.

Mr Yakovlev also attended the opening of a conference devoted to history, which would determine how historians and writers should reflect *perestroika* (restructuring) in their work.

Mr Ligachov, reputedly a conservative hardliner, was also believed to oversee historical orientation through his ideological portfolio. Mr Ligachov met Mr Joe Slove, the South African Communist Party leader, on Wednesday and was not on the list of participants at either meeting reported by *Pravda*.

The Kremlin second in command was said to have had a hand in the March 13 article in *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, signed by Nina Andreyeva, a Leningrad chemist, which complained about attacks against Stalin and warned that *perestroika* was moving away from Communist principles by encouraging liberalization.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last Friday denied Western reports of a rift between Mr Gorbachov and Mr Ligachov, the same day that the latter reappeared in public after a three-week absence. He was seen on television chatting and joking with Mr Gorbachov at a ceremony marking Lenin's birthday. The exact responsibilities of Mr Yakovlev and Mr Ligachov have always been unclear, as Mr Yakovlev's official propaganda portfolio overlaps with Mr Ligachov's overall ideological duties. Western diplomats expressed surprise that Mr Ligachov had not attended Wednesday's meeting. "It's his patch after all," one said. But they cautioned that it was "too early" to deduce that there had been a permanent shift in responsibilities. Meanwhile, the debate between the conservatives and the reforming wings of the party burst into the open again yesterday with the publication of an article in the same vein as the *Sovetskaya Rossiya* piece, bitterly criticizing supporters of *perestroika*. The commentary in *Molodaya Gvardiya* was the first conservative anti-*perestroika* manifesto to be published since April 5 when *Pravda*, in an editorial in which Mr Gorbachov is said to have collaborated, repudiated the *Sovetskaya Rossiya* article. The debate between the conservatives and reformers continues while preparations are made for a key conference in June, at which the progress of Mr Gorbachov's reforms will be assessed.

How Thatcher scuppered US Navy

From Michael Binyon, Washington, and Michael Evans, Brussels

Britain and Canada. Opposition to the US technology transfer waiver was strong within the Defence Department and among some congressmen. The US has emphasized, however, that this exception will not be repeated for any other country, and the ban on the transfer of submarine nuclear technology remains.

Although the US Congress still has to approve an amendment to the 1958 Anglo-American Co-operation Treaty, President Reagan's endorsement was seen by British officials as the final big

burden. British officials at the Nato Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Brussels, felt that President Reagan's decision was a sign that the US would prefer Canada to buy the British Trafalgar Class submarines rather than the smaller French Rubis Class boats. The role that Mrs Thatcher's special relationship with Mr Reagan played was underlined by Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister in remarks to American reporters last Friday.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, speaking in Brussels yesterday, said: "I've expressed my great appreciation to the President and to Mr Carlucci (the US Defence Secretary) and his colleagues for their extremely positive and helpful attitude to this matter."

The Canadian contract, expected to be awarded by the summer, is worth about \$4 billion. Trafalgar Class submarines are currently built by the Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Company in Barrow-in-Furness. If Britain wins the contract, the first submarine would be built at Barrow and the rest in Canada, with Vickers' expertise.

Arab protest strike brings an uneasy quiet to Bethlehem

From Ian Murray, Bethlehem

Huge boulders and wrecked cars blocked the main road up to the Manger yesterday as Bethlehem observed another general strike ordered by the underground leadership of the Palestinian "intifada" (uprising). Oil had been poured on some of the steep roads in the town centre, making driving difficult, and except for a few Israeli Army patrols the streets were deserted.

Like everywhere else in the occupied territories, the town was at a standstill as Palestinians obeyed their secret orders to stop work and close businesses as another sign of protest over the killing in Tunis of Abu Jihad.

The strike, the most rigidly observed so far, came just as Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said that he believed the Army was beginning to bring the four-and-a-half month old "intifada" under control. The closed shutters along the streets of Bethlehem indicate that he may have spoken too soon.

Although Bethlehem is so far the only place where Palestinians have killed an Israeli soldier since the start of the disturbances in December, it is the opening and closing of its shops that has most obviously revealed the power of the underground leadership.

Only 10 minutes down the road from Jerusalem, its shuttered businesses and almost silent streets bear stark witness to how the unrest has changed a whole way of life. In a few short months Bethlehem has turned from being a bustling shopping centre into an embattled frontier town.

The Israeli Army has created a frontier across the

main road in from Jerusalem. A khaki tent with a tall, white pole flying the Israeli flag outside has been pitched beside an Arab monumental mason's workshop where freshly carved gravestones are on display. Across the road, a roll of barbed wire and spikes and metal barriers force vehicles through the kind of chicane that exists on many an international frontier. The border with the West Bank, which many Israelis have tried to forget for 20 years, has been re-established by the Army.

Farther down the road, where the shops begin, the change with the recent past is most noticeable. Less than six months ago this was the place for the non-religious Jew to come and do Saturday shopping. It had become so popular over the previous year that extra police had to be drafted in to direct the traffic.

The noise was tremendous. Rival greengrocers loudly extolled the virtues of their shining subergines or plump bananas. Busloads of tourists would stop for apples. Inside the supermarkets the international community queued to buy Belgian chocolates, English marmalade, gin and pink slices of local ham. Shopkeepers opened new tills and bought Mercedes.

Now that will all change. The oranges and grapefruit, too perishable to last with the vastly reduced turnover, have vanished. Sinioras, one of the cleanest, most modern butcher shops you could find anywhere in the world, has been shut for the past six weeks. The stuffed cow in its window is in the dark behind the shutters. The super-

markets do open, but only for the permitted three hours a day, and even then they do not open their metal doors. Most prefer customers to go round to the back door in a "knock twice and ask for Ahmed" ritual which ensures that only known old customers come in.

In the dark interiors stocks are low, the freezers are three-quarters empty, the dairy coolers are running at half capacity, the few strings of sausages hang in sad solitude behind the limited cheese.

Outside, the tourist buses still make their way to the Church of the Nativity, but Manger Square is not crowded and many of the vehicles parked there are army trucks. Israeli flags festoon the police station, where nearly all the Arab policemen have resigned. The shutters are down on the souvenir shops.

The tourists, in their blue and white "Welcome to Israel" hats, may not realize that anything has changed. They may even think that the streets are always silent as it says in the carols.

But it is an enforced and deafening silence. For fear of retribution, either from the Army or the "intifada", the shops are closed. The temporary frontier set up by the Army between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is looking more and more permanent.

● JERUSALEM: A bodyguard for the Israeli-appointed Palestinian mayor of Hebron, in the occupied West Bank, shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian youth yesterday when demonstrators, demanding the mayor's resignation, tried to storm the town hall. Palestinian sources said.

Slogan-painters hit the royal yacht

From Christopher Morris Melbourne

Australian Navy frogmen checked the hull of the Britannia yesterday after protesters managed to breach security and paint a slogan in support of Aborigines on the bow of the royal yacht in Brisbane.

The 24-hour guard at wharf No 4, where the Britannia was docked, has been strengthened and embarrassed police chiefs last night ordered a full investigation into the incident.

Under cover of darkness the protesters managed to swim across the Brisbane River to the wharf and used bright red paint to write the demand: "End the killing time" on the port bow. This was a reference to the death of more than 100 Aborigine people in police custody during the past eight years, many of them in mysterious circumstances, now being investigated by a Royal Commission. The slogan - suspected of being painted by white supporters of the Aborigines - was removed yesterday morning.

The protest, just 48 hours before the Queen arrived in Brisbane to open World Expo '88 before boarding the royal yacht to sail to Sydney, has caused considerable alarm among police and security officials. They are worried because hundreds of Aborigines are converging on Brisbane determined to hold demonstrations to coincide with the Expo opening and to focus world attention on their demands for land rights. Extra police are being drafted into Brisbane to counter disturbances or attempts to disrupt the royal visit.

The Queen, continuing her Australia tour, was informed of the incident in Melbourne where she spent a hectic morning visiting the new Australian ballet school and going on a walkabout amid April showers. She also visited the Victorian Museum to look at an exhibition on the first white settlers' impressions of Australia.

The Queen and Duke then



The Queen enjoying a sheepdog trial demonstration yesterday in Geelong, Victoria.

travelled to Geelong where the Prince of Wales attended the school. Nearly 10,000 school-children were given the day off to welcome the royal couple. But what intrigued the Queen most was Spud, a border collie

who wore a wrist watch strapped to his front leg for a sheepdog demonstration. According to Spud's owner, Mr Peter Sharp, it is to know whether to go clockwise or anti-clockwise when rounding

up sheep. When the Queen remarked that the Buckingham Palace corgis don't wear watches, Mr Sharp replied: "That's probably because, ma'am, there are enough anti-clockwise when rounding

Death toll still rising from leak at Bhopal

Delhi - A report submitted to the Madhya Pradesh assembly yesterday said that 1,750 more people may die in the next seven years as a result of the gas leak from the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal (Our Correspondent writes).

The state's Chief Minister, Mr Arjun Singh, put the death toll since 1984 at 2,998 and said that 816 other deaths were under investigation.

The report called for 3.7 billion rupees (£154 million) to be spent on financial and medical rehabilitation of the victims.

Minister back

Khartoum (Reuter) - Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi was re-elected as Sudan's Prime Minister in a prelude to the formation of a government of national unity.

Gold sentence

Dhaka (Reuter) - Tony Perkins, from Britain, who admitted trying to smuggle £32,000 of gold into Bangladesh, was jailed for life.

Fury at death

Karachi - Pakistani villagers set seven army trailers on fire in Sind province after a motorcyclist was crushed by an army vehicle.

Aids embargo

Delhi (AFP) - India will expel foreigners carrying the Aids virus, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare said.

Wall scaled

Berlin (Reuter) - An East German sound technician injured his ankle as he scaled the Berlin Wall to the West.

Jail break-in

Stockholm - A man armed with a sub-machine gun broke into a prison at Norrkoping and freed two prisoners.

Pretoria uses rebel link to force Maputo talks

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa's connivance with the rebel Mozambique National Resistance is the spectre behind renewed efforts to bring about a summit between President Botha and President Chissano, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

A special envoy of President Chissano, the Mozambique Minister of International Co-operation, Mr Jacinto Veloso, flew unannounced to Cape Town on Tuesday for talks with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Roelof "Pik" Botha.

Afterwards Mr Botha said Mr Veloso had delivered a message of goodwill from President Chissano to the South African leader. He said the possibility of a meeting between the two heads of state was discussed.

It would be their first meeting since President Chissano succeeded the late Samora Machel, who died in an air crash on the border between Mozambique and South Africa in October 1986.

Yesterday it was reported from Maputo that Mr Veloso had returned with a message from Mr Botha for President Chissano. No details were given but Mr Veloso confirmed that a meeting between the two leaders was discussed in Cape Town. He added that relations between the two countries would first have to improve.

What is known is that during the Cape Town talks it was agreed to reactivate the Joint Security Commission, established under the 1984 Nkomati non-aggression

treaty between South Africa and Mozambique.

President Chissano withdrew Mozambican participation in the commission in 1986 after it became clear that South Africa's collusion with the Mozambique rebels was continuing.

Diplomatic sources in South Africa said that although there has been no overt reaction, the South African Government was embarrassed by a US State Department report that compared rebel activities with killings by the Khmer Rouge to Cambodia.

The report said at least 100,000 civilians had been killed in cold blood by the rebels. The US is vigorously following up the report.

Mr Roy Stacey, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, told a conference in Maputo that rebels were carrying out "one of the most brutal holocausts" since the Second World War. Rebels were waging "a systematic and brutal war of terror through forced labour, starvation, physical abuse and wanton killing".

South Africa inherited the role of supporting the rebels from the Rhodesian Army, which set them up mainly to counter Mr Robert Mugabe's guerrillas. The rebels have been hampered by internal dissent and have failed to project any form of ideology apart from their hatred for the Government in Maputo.

South Africa is now receiving clear signals from the West that the time has arrived to

dump the rebels. When South Africa signed the Nkomati treaty, it undertook to stop helping the rebels, but suspicion of complicity persists.

During the talks in Cape Town Mr Veloso said that although Mozambique stood firm in its pledge not to allow the ANC to use its territory to launch attacks against South Africa, it remained convinced that the rebels continued to receive support and advice from South Africa.

Mr Veloso was informed that the South African Government was equally convinced that ANC guerrillas were operating from Mozambican territory.

There have been other developments pointing towards a change in the relationship between the two countries. Earlier this week it was disclosed that Mr Gavin Relly, chairman of the Anglo American Corporation, held talks with President Chissano on the possible development of a forestry, agricultural and natural gas project.

Business sources in Johannesburg say the corporation would not consider re-entering Mozambique without guarantees about security.

But it is the search for oil off the Mozambique coast which has been attracting most international interest and South Africa, vulnerable as it is to sanctions, is clearly involved. Probably unrelated to this week's events was the assassination in Lisbon last week of Evo Fernandes, a mixed-race Portuguese and former president of the rebels.

US changes tack in attempt to force removal of Noriega

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States is attempting to negotiate a new deal with General Manuel Noriega, the strongman of Panama, under which he would remain in power for some time before resigning and going into exile.

Washington's willingness to compromise amounts to a humiliating acknowledgment that its attempt to topple the dictator quickly through economic pressure has turned into a policy disaster, with economic and political implications in Panama and beyond.

Mr Michael Kozak, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, is on a secret trip to Panama to try to negotiate a deal. He may hold direct talks with General Noriega if it appears that an agreement is in the making.

Panama is in political turmoil and economic chaos because of US sanctions, with record numbers of Panamanians trying to leave the country. Applications for US visas are being received at the rate of more than 5,000 a month.

US officials have concluded that the dictator could retain power for weeks or months while the Panamanian economy suffered grave and perhaps permanent damage. An early change of course in American policy, including modification of sanctions, is now regarded as essential and inevitable.

Across-the-board sanctions were imposed with such haste that some inevitable repercussions were overlooked by administration officials, such as the threatened eviction of American nationals from their homes because they are banned from paying rent.

US nationals have complained bitterly about not being allowed to pay domestic gas, telephone and electricity bills. Airlines are prevented from paying landing fees and, strictly speaking, US citizens are not allowed to pay departure tax.

Mr Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman, was asked if US policy against General Noriega had failed. "You've got to have some patience," he said. "Things

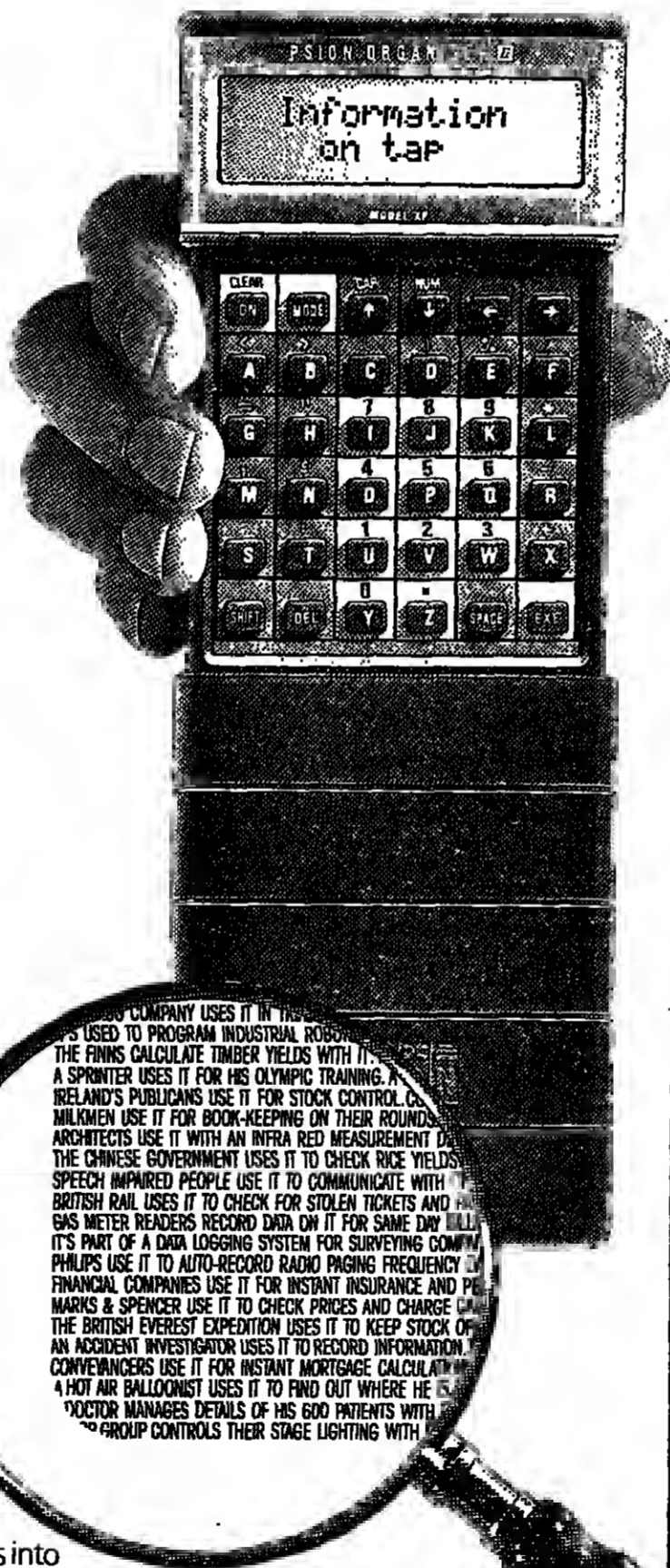
don't happen overnight." But privately, senior officials admit that the sanctions had been a mistake. The once-prosperous Panamanian banking system will probably never fully recover. And the policy has done irreparable damage to US relations with countries throughout Latin America, where the intervention is bitterly resented.

President Reagan has ruled out military intervention unless the Panama Canal is threatened. He therefore has little option but to offer compromises to persuade General Noriega to go. The central concession is his willingness to stretch out the process for the strongman to go.

A primary reason for the failure was US inability to gather opposition forces around any single figure.

● PANAMA CITY: The Panama Government said it had ordered a crackdown on the opposition after uncovering violence against General Noriega (Reuter reports). Human rights activists said seven people had been arrested.

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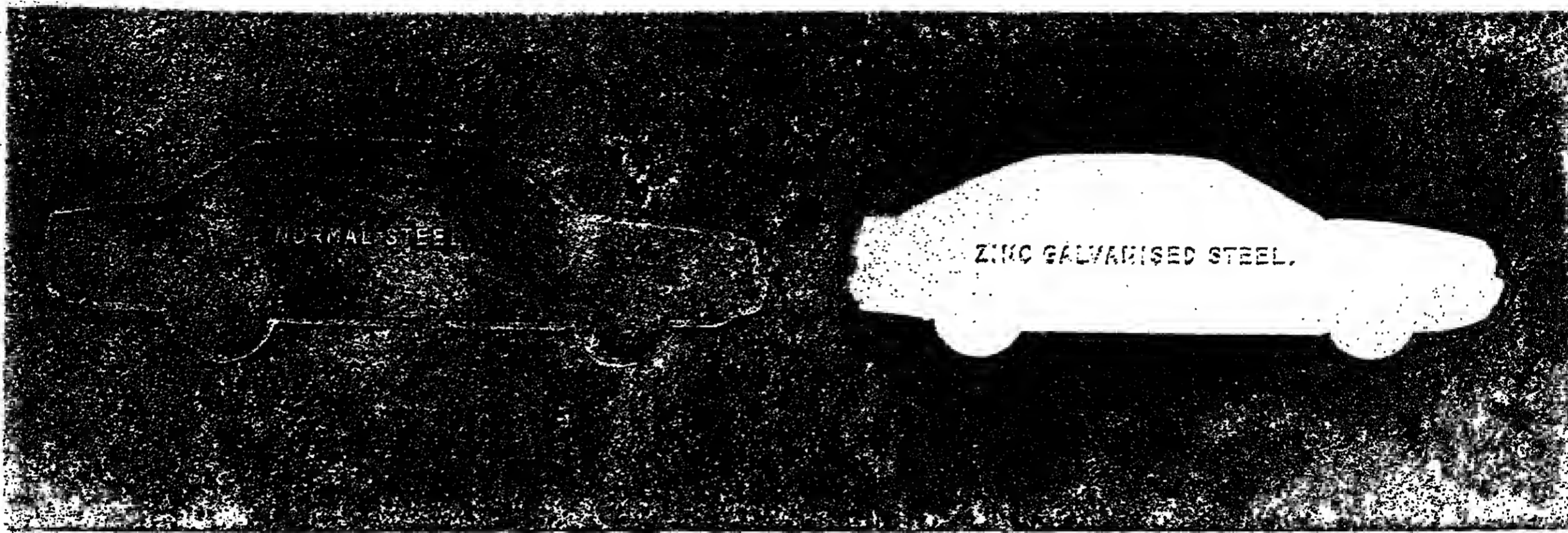
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TO STOP YOUR BODY AGEING PREMATURELY, DR DIETZ PRESCRIBES ZINC.

مكزامن الجھل



Death toll still rising from leak at Bhopal
Delhi — A report submitted to the Madhya Pradesh assembly yesterday said that 1,750 more people were killed by the gas leak from the Carbide factory at Bhopal. (Our Correspondent writes...)

Minister back
Khartoum (Reuters) — The Sudan's Prime Minister, Abd al-Mahdi al-Mahdi, was expected to return to Khartoum to take the oath of office as head of the government of national unity.

Gold sentence
Dhaka (Reuters) — Tony Blair, the British Foreign Secretary, has said that he would like to see the world's gold reserves used to finance the medical rehabilitation of victims of the Bhopal gas leak.

Fury at death
Karachi — Pakistani villagers set seven army trucks on fire in Sind province after a motorcycle was crushed by an army vehicle.

Aids embargo
Delhi (AFP) — India will stop foreigners carrying the AIDS virus, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare said.

Wall scaled
Berlin (Reuters) — An East German sound technician scaled his ankle as he scaled the Berlin Wall in the West.

Jail break-in
Stockholm — A man armed with a sub-machine gun broke into a prison at Norrtunga and freed two prisoners.

rebel link puto talks
Shannesburg

ck in attempt al of Noriega
Washington

DR DIETZ had cracked it.

AUDI'S TEN year warranty stood as testament to zinc's remarkable anti-corrosion properties.

AS WE sped home, the fact that we still didn't understand the intricacies of cathodic protection, didn't seem to matter.

EARLIER THAT morning, after a gruelling four hours on a snow bound autobahn, Dr Dietz greeted us at Audi's quality assurance centre.

'THE DRIVING conditions are very wearing,' observed our host gazing out of the window.

FOR A moment we thought Dr Dietz was showing a little compassion.

'CARS IN Germany,' continued the Doctor, 'have to withstand an extremely corrosive environment. You see, in some areas, snow lies on the ground for six months of the year.'

'TO AGGRAVATE the situation, every year the authorities put half a million tonnes of salt and grit on our roads. And the corrosive agents SO₂ and NO_x are present in high levels in our rain and air.'

SUDDENLY LIVING in Britain didn't seem so bad.

'CONSEQUENTLY, AT Audi, we now employ the classic corrosion protection system: zinc galvanisation.'

'BUT DON'T other manufacturers already use zinc?' we questioned.

'INDEED,' REPLIED Dr Dietz smiling, 'most cars have a limited number of galvanised parts: hinges, sills, brackets and some body parts. Only Audi, along with Porsche, have their body shells completely galvanised inside and out.'

'CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE most manufacturers' corrosion warranties are limited to six years, Audi's now extends to ten. Zinc is also likely to increase an Audi's resale value.'

'ARE YOU familiar with galvanisation and the barrier effect and cathodic protection afforded by zinc?' enquired Dr Dietz.

DR DIETZ took his cue from our blank faces. Our metallurgy was, to say the least, a little rusty.

'ALLOW ME to explain. The protective layer of zinc works in two ways. Firstly, the zinc provides a barrier that protects the steel from contact with corrosive media. This purely physical corrosion-resisting property of zinc coatings on steel is referred to as the barrier effect. Zinc, of course, corrodes up to ten times more slowly than steel.'

'SECONDLY, SHOULD the zinc be damaged, exposing the steel, the zinc becomes the sacrificial anode in the electrochemical corrosive reaction.'

'IN PRACTICAL terms this suppression of the anodic reaction of the steel means that the Fe side of the electrode pair is no longer a corroding mixed electrode, but a corrosion-free cathode. The corresponding phenomenon is therefore referred to as cathodic protection.'

DR DIETZ might just as well have been speaking German.

THE DOCTOR endeavoured to explain in more simple terms. 'Should the steel be exposed, the zinc bleeds over the steel. No rust will form until the zinc has been eroded, a process which can take several years.'

'WITHOUT ZINC, how long would rust take to form?' we queried.

'SEVERAL DAYS, maybe less,' smiled Dr Dietz.

'HOWEVER, WHILE zinc is undoubtedly an effective weapon against rust, it can only be one element in a complete range of anti-corrosion measures,' continued Dr Dietz.

DR DIETZ, we sensed, was on the verge of refreshing our memories about the rest of Audi's corrosion protection. Apparently, the 27-operation painting process, the wax-flooded cavities and the chip-resistant elastic undercoat, had all been retained despite the introduction of zinc galvanisation.

THANKFULLY, WE persuaded him they could wait until another time.

HOWEVER, ONE question did remain. 'Why were Audi the only manufacturer, but for the notable exception of Porsche, to adopt fully galvanised zinc bodies?'

DR DIETZ smiled. 'Vorsprung durch Technik,' came the reply.

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Kim Dae Jung prepares to unseat Roh

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

After almost two decades in the political wilderness, Mr Kim Dae Jung is preparing to enter South Korea's Parliament as its most powerful opposition leader, to the undisputed dismay of the Government.

To the workers, farmers and students who flocked to support his Party for Peace and Democracy in general elections on Tuesday, Mr Kim is a cult figure.

When he campaigns in his native Cholla, a rural and relatively under-developed province in the south-west, he is followed by adoring crowds in the manner of a prophet who will deliver his oppressed people to the promised land of democracy and prosperity.

To the ruling Democratic Justice Party, he is a taciturn, disruptive and dangerous adversary. Its perception of Mr Kim was neatly caricatured in a cartoon in *The Korea Times* yesterday, which portrayed a kneeling man (the ruling party) recoiling in horror as a fire-breathing dragon emerged from a ballot box.

Deprived of a working majority in the 299-member National Assembly, President Roh has appealed for unity and compromise with the disparate opposition forces. Quite how this will be achieved with the ruling party's sworn enemy prominent in their ranks is hard to imagine.

Mr Kim, aged 62, was jailed in the 1970s for his opposition

to President Park, and began this decade under sentence of death for alleged sedition against the regime of President Chun. The penalty was commuted to life imprisonment; eventually he was allowed to go into exile in the United States, and further persecution followed his return to Korea in 1985.

The veteran dissident leader has good reason to detest authoritarian rulers, and he counts the present Government among them.

"What we are seeing today is a continuation of the Chun regime... This is still essentially military rule," he told a press conference yesterday. He accepts the reality of Mr Roh functioning as President, but still regards his election as fraudulent and illegitimate.

Mr Kim, whose normally stern features were occasionally creased into a smile yesterday, endeavoured to present a moderate image. His party would campaign strenuously for social justice, pay special attention to the welfare of the under-privileged, and vigorously defend freedom of speech and human rights. Providing the ruling party honoured its pledges to implement democratic reforms, it would find a responsive partner in the Party for Peace and Democracy.

If it did not, however, there would be trouble. The smile disappeared as Mr Kim enunciated his conditions for cooperation — the immediate



Mr Kim Dae Jung, right, congratulating a Party for Peace and Democracy member yesterday on his election to the National Assembly. Mr Kim promised that he would not cause political trouble that could hamper the Seoul Olympics in September.

release of an estimated 1,000 (non-communist) political prisoners, a ban on political activities by the police and intelligence agencies, and genuine freedom of the press.

Mr Kim has probably the most loyal, if not the largest, support of any political leader in South Korea. Many regard his demands as reasonable and long overdue. It is just the way he goes about enforcing them that alarms his opponents and rivals. One of them

— his former persecutor, General Chun — has every reason to fear his "second coming". "We intend to settle the whole legacy of the Fifth (Chun) Republic. We are going to investigate the corruption, massing of wealth and other illegal activities by Chun and his relatives."

Mr Kim now has the ability to do so, providing he can persuade other opposition parties to support him in

invoking sweeping new As-

sembly powers of inquiry into state affairs.

Another target will be Mr Roh, whom he intends to unseat if possible with a probe into alleged fraud during the presidential election.

Democratic Justice Party policy advisers are confident that Mr Kim will be restrained by his elevation to a more responsible position in the legislature. "It's just a lot of hot air," one said yesterday. "He'll calm down once he's in

the Assembly and realizes he has to compromise for the good of the country."

Whether this is true, he will be under pressure from multitudes in Cholla and working-class districts of Seoul to justify their faith in him.

● Graft charges: Prosecutors yesterday arrested Mr Yum Bo Hyun, the former Mayor of Seoul, on graft charges, the latest step in a probe of alleged corruption under the administration of General Chun.

Doubts persist over new laws for Hong Kong

Hong Kong (Reuter) — Hong Kong residents will retain the right to move about freely, travel abroad and emigrate after the colony reverts to the control of China, the first draft of a post-1997 Basic Law says.

The 10-chapter draft document, headed *Fundamental Rights and Duties of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Inhabitants*, was made public simultaneously in Peking and Hong Kong yesterday.

It was published amid reports of last-minute disputes over the drafting committee over the formation of Hong Kong's first government after 1997.

The first version to appear was in Chinese. Officials said the English text had been delayed by translation problems and was not expected before next week.

They added that there had been some doubt about whether the document would be printed and published in time because of last-minute changes by the committee, which has been holding meetings in Peking.

The Peking Government has charged a committee of 58 Chinese officials and Hong Kong Chinese representatives with producing a Basic Law, which will act as a constitution after 1997.

Britain and China signed an agreement in 1984 under which Peking regains sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, agreeing to make it into a Special Administrative Region.

Proclaiming "One Country, Two Systems," China pledged Hong Kong would stay capitalist and govern itself until at least 2047.

Legal experts said that the problems surrounding the Basic Law were typified by its approach to the legal systems operating in Hong Kong and China.

Hong Kong's legal system is based on British law, which one legal source said could be explained as permitting anything that is not illegal. In China, he said, the opposite is the case, with the law stating what is allowed.

Although Hong Kong is to retain its own laws under the 1984 agreement, legal sources said Chinese officials had inserted a number of conditional clauses in the draft.

The Chinese officials have also insisted that any final interpretation of the Basic Law must come from the standing committee of the National People's Congress in Peking. Mr Helmut Sohmen, a

Hong Kong legislator and businessman, said earlier this week the rough draft he had seen was "amateurish".

But he thought that it would be improved by 1996, the deadline for the final version.

Mr Martin Lee, a Hong Kong legislator and member of the drafting committee, said that the draft was announced after heated last-minute debate and was not representative of the wishes of the people of the colony.

"These are options put forward by a minority of members," he said. "It is unlikely we will have a sufficiently representative legislature."

Mr Lee, an outspoken proponent of immediate democracy in the territory, also said that the executive branch would hold too much power under the Basic Law, and the legislature would be too weak to provide adequate checks and balances.

He said this could undermine confidence in the territory and convince many people to leave ahead of the transfer of power.

"This emigration tide could soon turn into an emigration tidal wave," he said.

Mr Sze-to Wah, another outspoken legislator, said of the document, which includes a number of possible formulae for government structure: "We have not resolved any of the problems. We have only publicized them."

Western diplomatic sources here said that if China was to maintain world confidence in Hong Kong as a key international finance centre, the Basic Law would have to reflect clearly the legal and economic basis of the territory.

Since the Sino-British agreement was signed, there has been a steadily increasing exodus of emigrants from Hong Kong, mainly from the professional and middle classes.

The Government says it does not keep migration statistics but many leading companies have said it is getting harder to recruit middle-level managers.

Copies of the draft are to be distributed free among Hong Kong's 5.6 million people and their views on it will be collated during the next five months by a special consultative committee.

Although the present Hong Kong Government does not have a role, it is expected to ask 180,000 of the colony's civil servants for their views and may pass them on informally to Peking.

Famine in Ethiopia

Tigré crisis looms as aid work halted

By Andrew McEwen

A devastating famine on the scale of the 1984-85 Ethiopian famine is now expected to hit the north-eastern province of Tigré within weeks.

Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva made this prediction yesterday after the final collapse of their relief operations.

In a separate development, field workers of another international relief agency, which asked not to be named, said that Tigré was "on the brink of a huge crisis".

The Ethiopian Government halted the ICRC's work on April 5 because many of the people it fed lived in rebel-held areas of Tigré. Hopes that it might be restarted crumbled this week when Addis Ababa ordered the Swiss-based charity to remove its planes from the country.

Five small Twin Otter aircraft which had been used by the ICRC to distribute food in rebel-held areas flew out of the country on Wednesday.

The Ethiopian Government's row with the ICRC and some other agencies came after a string of rebel victories both in Tigré and in Eritrea.

The ICRC was apparently singled out for the toughest treatment because of its uncompromising policies. Its charter requires it to help the needy regardless of which side they are on. It insisted on using its own staff, lorries and planes to distribute food without Ethiopian Government involvement.

It was ordered to withdraw its 45 foreign staff from Tigré and Eritrea on April 5, and since then its operation has been effectively mothballed. It still has 44 lorries and an estimated 58,000 tonnes of food locked up in warehouses in the north.

The Ethiopian Government asked the ICRC to hand over the operation to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, but the ICRC refused. An official in Geneva said that donors had a right to know that the food and money was supervised by ICRC staff. Britain contributed 13,700 tonnes of food to its effort in January.

The April 6 order to remove

foreign workers also applied to other relief agencies, but the United Nations World Food Programme has since been allowed to send three of its staff back as observers. But as the UN only delivers food, using its own fleet of lorries, and does not distribute it, it is viewed in a different light.

The ICRC's stand has wide support among international

aid officials, who fear that the Ethiopian Red Cross would be unable to exercise the same independence as the ICRC. Addis Ababa has said that it will not deliver food to rebel-held areas, although 90 per cent of Tigré's countryside and six of the eight towns are under the control of the Tigré People's Liberation Front.

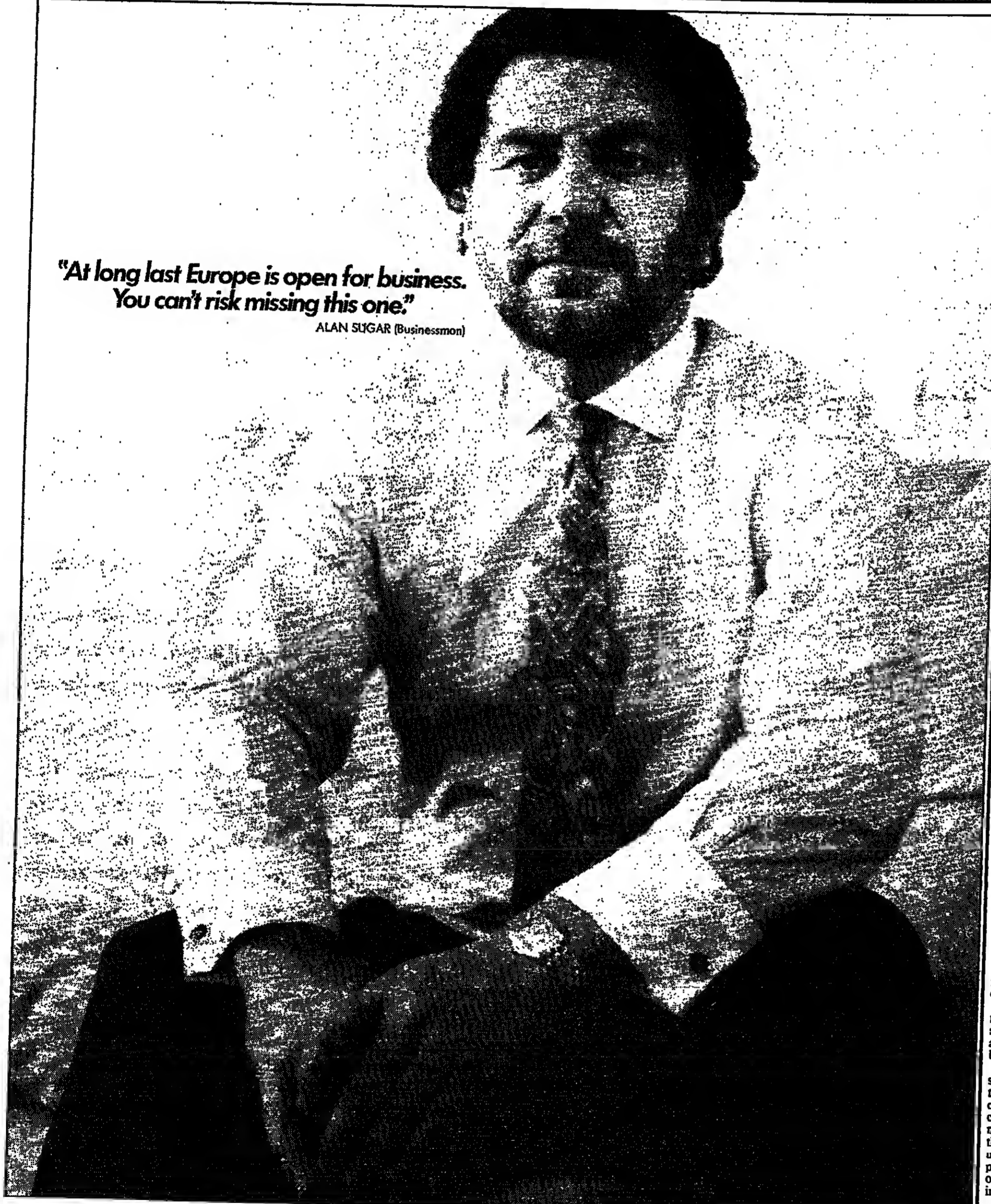
Before the clampdown, the ICRC delivered 8,687 tonnes of food to 541,000 people in February. By March deliveries were falling because of disruption caused by a large offensive by the liberation front.

Oxfam is still feeding 70,000 people in Tigré, operating from the Government side, while a further 300,000 are receiving help from the rebels' relief arm and 600,000 are reached by agencies working from Sudan. But 1.5 million remain at risk.

Mr Christopher Patten, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday held talks on the situation with ICRC officials in Geneva. He also announced an allocation of 5,000 tonnes of food to UN-administered relief efforts in the west of Ethiopia where 250,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived.



Mr Patten: Giving more food to help Sudanese refugees.



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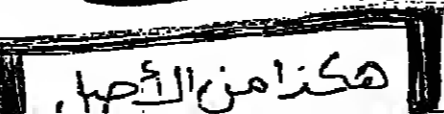
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Manufacturing Service

dti

The Department for Enterprise



هكزامن الاصل

**ots persist
new laws
long Kong**

Hong Kong legislators are seen to be "amateurish". But he thought that it would be improved by 1990. Mr. Martin Lee, a Hong Kong legislator and member of the drafting committee, said that the draft was announced after heated five-minute debate and was a representative of the wishes of the people of the colony.

"These are options put forward by a minority party members," he said. "It is a matter we will have a sufficient representative legislature."

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Copies of the draft are distributed free among the territory's 5.6 million people and their views on it will be collected during the next few months by a special consultative committee.

Although the present Hong Kong Government does not have a role, it is expected that 5,000 of its civil servants for their services will pass them on eventually to Peking.

HARRODS

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If you would like to spend this Bank Holiday Monday spending, Harrods is open from 10AM to 5PM for that very purpose.

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FIRST FLOOR.

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SECOND FLOOR.

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**crisis looms
work halted**

mine in Ethiopia

By Andrew McEwen

...workers also apply...
...United Nations World Food Programme has since...
...allowed to send three...
...back as observers...
...UN only delivers...
...own fleet of...
...does not distribute...
...in a different...
...ICRC's stand has...
...support among...

Mr Patten: Giving more help to help Sudanese refugees

...who fear the...
...an Red Cross would...
...to exercise the...
...as the ICRC...
...has said that...
...deliver food to...
...through 40...
...Tigre's counter...
...the eight towns...
...control of the...
...Liberation Front...
...the clampdown...
...8,687...
...400 people...
...March...
...because of...
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...of 5,000...
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Tournament of the Mind - top school

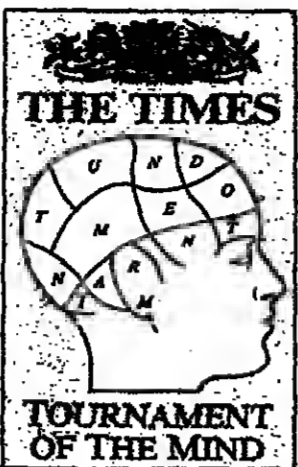
The Kimbolton Teo should have been hard at work in their first lesson of the day when news broke of their triumph in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind.

They had been summoned by the head, Roger Peel, a figure almost as immense and imposing as the stately Cambridge school which has occupied since picking it up for a song from the Earl of Manchester's family in 1948.

They assembled in an area which is really the entrance hall but which, through the vagaries of public school lingo, is called the Saloon. This is situated next to the Green Room, which is next to the head's room, which is actually called the Queen's Room because Catherine of Aragon died here.

She might well have come to life if only she could have seen the faces of the teo at the very moment, 10.03am yesterday, that they heard of their victory. They wore the same sort of expression that was once seen on famous people at the approach of Eamon Andrews with a large book tucked under his arm.

However, boys and girls at Kimbolton do not become "over the moon" or "well



Kimbolton's winning team. Back row (left to right): Michael Hatford, Barnaby Poulton; middle row: Guy Littlewood, Susan Myers, Timothy Jenness, Estelle Maddocks; front row: Christopher Measres, Adam Richardson, Lisa Wall, and Andrew Loan

man for one so successful, handled the question with a statesman's skill. "We had group discussions. I coordinated the entries, and made suggestions as to which members should concentrate on which questions, depending on what I thought they would be good at."

It all seemed to have passed off with the democracy of a Quakers' meeting. Was there a consensus on which questions were the hardest, and which the easiest? Yes, the ones that posed fewest problems were those which could be cracked by the use of simultaneous equations, as the participants were fully trained for that sort of thing. The trickiest, they agreed, were the ones in the miscellaneous category.

Kimbolton's interest in the tournament started when two young physics teachers, Stephen White and Kevin Curtis, discussed it with some of their pupils.

Very soon there were 19 volunteers, who were divided into two teams.

"I've found myself going to the library in the evenings, and seeing people beavering away among the reference books," said Mr Peel, evidently impressed. "You ask what we're good at here, and



Kimbolton's winning team. Back row (left to right): Michael Hatford, Barnaby Poulton; middle row: Guy Littlewood, Susan Myers, Timothy Jenness, Estelle Maddocks; front row: Christopher Measres, Adam Richardson, Lisa Wall, and Andrew Loan

of course my temptation is to say "everything". Obviously, almost all the pupils in our winning team are science-oriented, and many of them have learnt quite advanced computer skills.

There must also be something in the Cambridge air. It will not have escaped the notice of our Tournament followers that the winner of the individual section came from Cambridge.

If only the Reverend-Ron-

ald Lancaster, teacher of chemistry, had also been a chairvoyant and foreseen the triumph. As head of religious studies, and as a passionate maker of fireworks, he is an illuminator of the firmament twice over, and would surely have run up a rocket.

Hard words however for Mensa, from both teachers and pupils alike, who said that while most of the questions were fair, some were ambiguously worded to the point of

confusion. Their verdict on setters' use of language: Could do better.

Pupils at Aylesbury High School were yesterday bemoaning their misfortune. Like Kimbolton, their team managed to answer all but one question correctly, but they were disqualified by Mensa because there was an error in the way the entry was completed. As a consolation prize the team will receive a *Times Atlas of the World*.

SCHOOLS' FINALS - THE ANSWERS

DAY 1
Puzzles: 1 15, 2 CARESS and SCARES 3 180969 (each number has four subtracted from it and the resultant figure is then squared), 4 220 revolutions.
General knowledge: 1 *Cantini or Teuton*, 2 *St Isidore of Seville*, 3 *Berossus*, 4 *The Opium*, 5 *Samizdat*.

DAY 2
Puzzles: 1 189 months (two planets are 90° in their orbit and the other two are 270°) 2 The odd one out is *Colombo*; the others when unscrambled read *Mysore*, *Indore* and *Rhopal*, all of which are in India. 3 Multiply, minus and divide. 4 196 squares (remember that there are squares on a skew).
General knowledge: 1 *Potosi*, 2 *Giles Farnaby*, 3 *Fandango*, 4 *Hiroshige*, 5 *Lamian War or Greek War*.

DAY 3
Puzzles: 1 181, 2 *Oto*, 3 The answer is 23; 9 times 1 divided by 3 to give you 3; on the other side 8 plus 8 divided by 8 to give you 2. 4 0.8588235; vowels equal 425 each; consonants equal 365 each; the total value of the

consonants is then divided by the total value of the vowels (the answer had to be completely correct, although acceptable alternatives were credited).
General knowledge: 1 *Molière*, 2 *Dasyuris* or *Dasyurinae*, 3 *Hakka*, 4 *Lammermoor*, 5 *Ben Hogen*.

DAY 4
Puzzles: 1 33 2 The words read *Buckeye*, *Bructus*, *Embilica* and *Margosa*. *Bructus* is an insect, the rest are trees. 3 28,46 4 100,000,000.
General knowledge: 1 *Monotropaceae*, 2 *Indra*, 3 *Paul Fleming*, 4 *Golems*, 5 *Langkat*.

DAY 5
Puzzles: 1 The comet passes planet A after 396 years and passes planet B after 66 years. 2 The missing words are *STRIFE* and *PRIEST*, 3 22,74, 4 L. The letters are the first and last letters of the signs of the zodiac, beginning with *Aquarius*.
General knowledge: 1 *Mo-Zi*, 2 *Franz Grillparzer*, 3 *Krait*, 4 *Ventrils*, 5 *Minimata disease*.

Concern over schools religion

The Prime Minister's speech last night has raised concerns about the lack of religious teaching in schools since the Education Act, 1944.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Canterbury and Birmingham) asked if the Government had any plans to reintroduce religious education in schools. He said that the Government's commitment to religious education had been weakened by the Education Act, 1944.

Mr Alan Haslegrave (Northampton) asked if the Government would consider reintroducing religious education in schools. He said that the Government's commitment to religious education had been weakened by the Education Act, 1944.

Bank holiday reform

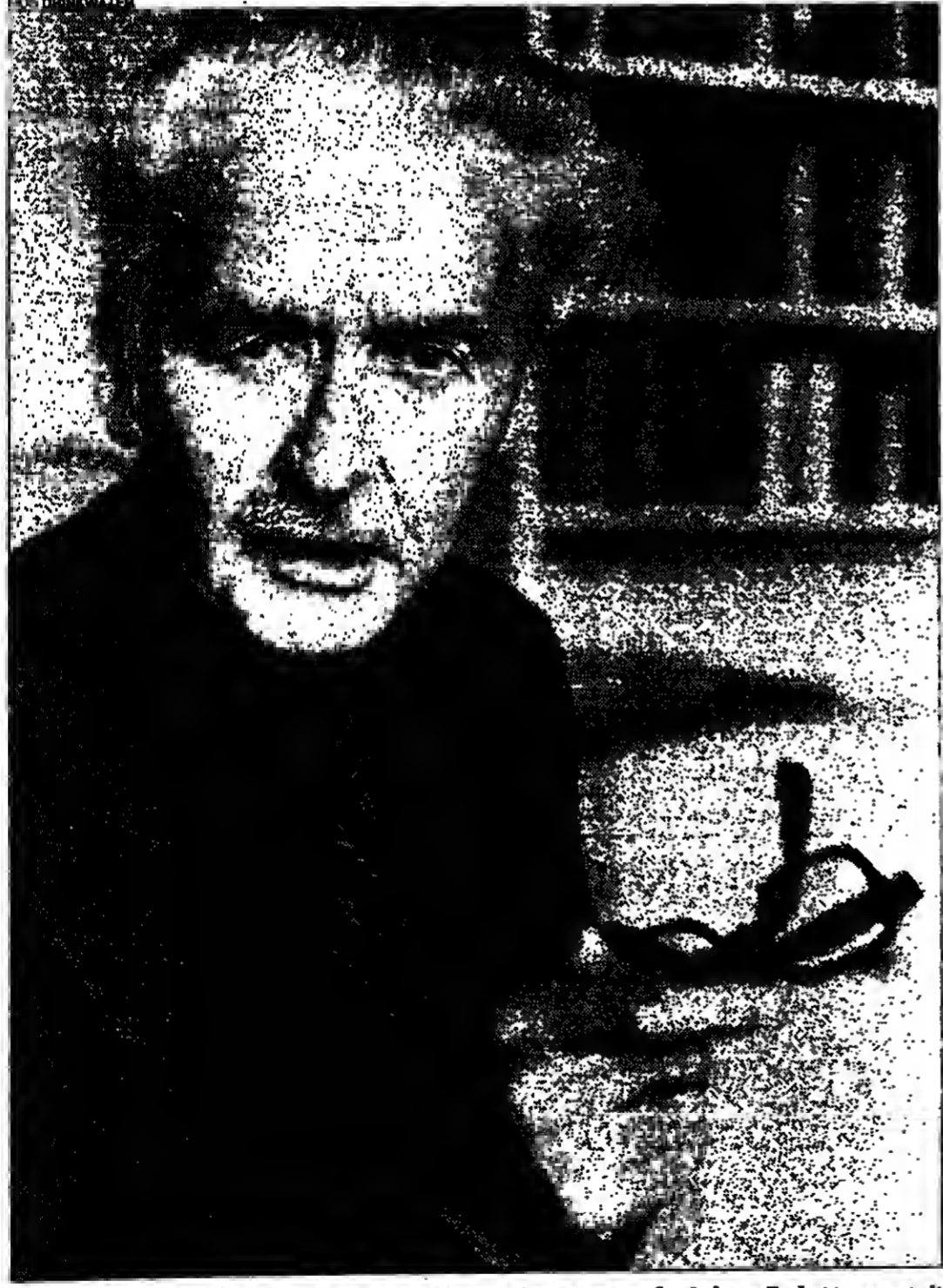
The Government is keen to reform the Bank Holiday Act, which provides for the closure of banks on certain days. The Government is considering proposals to change the dates of bank holidays.

Parliament next week

Parliament is expected to meet next week. The Government will be presenting a number of bills, including a bill on the environment.

Parliament today

Parliament is expected to meet today. The Government will be presenting a number of bills, including a bill on the environment.



Professor Quirk believes that teachers should not regurgitate grammar for their pupils, but transmute it

Guru of grammar

Sir Randolph Quirk, the unseemly force behind today's Kingman report on English teaching, explains to George Hill why he prefers the indirect path to good grammar

Language is power, according to the arch-grammatian of our time. In that case the Kingman report on the teaching of English, published today, is concerned not only with Shakespeare, Milton and the possessive gerund, but with young people's access to most of life's opportunities.

"Language is power, and too much English teaching today is about correctness for fear of stunting a potential Shakespeare's liberty of self-expression. Baker knew his man, and turned to him at an early stage when considering how to set up the inquiry, to which all the hopes of a whole tribe of grammarians, lexicographers and grammarists are now pinned. They hope to see Sir John Kingman's committee put grammar back into the classroom. Preliminary clues suggest that the committee has been heavily influenced by Quirk's evidence. Before it was set up, Baker discussed its composition with him, and followed his advice closely.

Sir Randolph in person does not give the impression of being a Great Cham, although the whole episode is a notable confirmation of his Chamship. He is deceptively tentative in his manner, and with his white moustache and large bifocals has the air of an academic hamster. But he knows what he wants to say, and as soon as he launches upon it, his hands begin to move commandingly and fluently in the co-vert grammar of gesture, interrupted at strategic points by donnish wrappings with the technology of briar and matchbox.

"My own very strong hope of the committee is that they will be saying there has got to be an improvement in the command of very precise skills in using English in speech and writing. I view with the greatest concern the way the educational establishment has turned away from correctness and the idea of a standard English, especially in relation to immigrants. It is just the same as the age-old argument about dialect. With the best and most charitable reasons, an educational ethos is developing here that it is wrong to tamper with the way a child already talks.

'All children should be taught to take pride in use of language'

SATURDAY
Portfolio At least **£8,000**
PLUS NEW *Accumulator* to be won
Irving Berlin at 100
He wrote his first song in 1907, and had his first hit in 1911. We look at the Russian who became an American institution.
Plus... Jumbo Crossword with a £50 prize

CONSERVATION
Seabirds are particularly vulnerable to oil spills at sea. However, more research has been done on captive birds, which spend only limited time at sea. A new Canadian study of Leach's storm petrels - one of the world's most abundant true seabirds, which comes to land only for breeding - shows clearly that adult petrels exposed to small doses of oil have reduced egg hatching success and young birds have a lower survival rate. The research, reported in *The Journal of Applied Ecology* (25:125-43) shows that the greater the oil exposure of breeding adults, the more hatched was the reproductive failure. In some cases this was due to oiled adults temporarily abandoning their nesting burrows. But lightly oiled petrels generally recovered by the following breeding season, returning to their breeding colony burrows and regaining successful reproduction rates.
Malcolm Smith

FINDINGS
A weekly series on research
METEOROLOGY
How long is a day? It is a remarkable feature of the physical principle of the conservation of momentum that if the circulation of the global atmosphere speeds up or slows down there will be a minute compensating change in the rate of the earth's rotation. Using atomic clocks, it has been possible to show that changes of a few milliseconds in the length of the day have correlated closely with changes in the overall motion of the atmosphere. These measurements have now been extended to show that periodic patterns over 40 to 50 days in tropical weather are detectable as variations in the length of the day. *W.J. Burroughs*

HISTORY
The 40th birthday celebrations of the Israeli state bring to mind the great diaspora of early modern history, the 500th anniversary of which comes up in three years' time. Jewish tradition claims that Ferdinand and Isabella's expulsion of the Jews from Spain ultimately deprived the country because it ruined Spaniards of their only financial exports at a time when the economy was unbalanced by an influx of gold and silver from the New World. But in the *May Pest & Prezent*, Henry Kamen of Warwick University shows that the numbers of Jews expelled were much smaller than claimed; about 70,000 (170,000 claimed) and that the majority converted rather than fled. The real loss, apparently, had been from the already Christianized Jews who, with access to higher echelons of society, really had made money but still felt foul of the newly-formed Inquisition.
John Crossland

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1552
ACROSS
1 Empty (6)
4 Sterile (6)
9 Royal Berkshire castle (7)
10 Father (5)
11 Jui-Long rivermouth port (4)
12 Precious family object (8)
14 Gossip (6)
15 But (6)
18 Butt (5)
20 Male deer (4)
22 Angry (5)
23 Make better (7)
25 God's name (6)
26 Insist upon (6)
DOWN
1 Solemn pledge (3)
2 Comply with standards (7)
3 Monster lach (4)
5 Roughness of temper (8)
6 Related proportion (5)
7 Nazi trials site (9)
8 Excessive desire (5)
11 Fanciful, unrealistic (4-5)
13 Target centre (5-3) 19 Rubbish (5)
16 Surpassed (7) 21 Culinary plating (1)
17 Sedate (5) 24 Take meal (3)

After ten months of bitterness and bickering...

Martin Fletcher on the Democrat-SDP election showdown

When centre fights centre

The Social and Liberal Democrats, comprising the former Liberal party and roughly half the old SDP...

opposing each other is Gillingham in Kent, where the Democrats, from having no councillors in 1979, now need to acquire only two to have the 16 necessary to end 12 years of Tory control...

Liberal Party to continue the Alliance," he says. Sayer shares this view: "...the SDP have formed a new party but want the privileges extended to the old Alliance. I have not given up 26 years of Liberal membership and worked bloody hard through some pretty dire days for that..."

that the SDP case has to be put, and that had they really been intent merely on inflicting maximum damage on the Democrats they would have fielded candidates against two other sitting Democrat councillors defending marginal wards...

less than 5 per cent support. He claims that in one, the only SDP supporters he found were the parents and neighbours of the candidate...

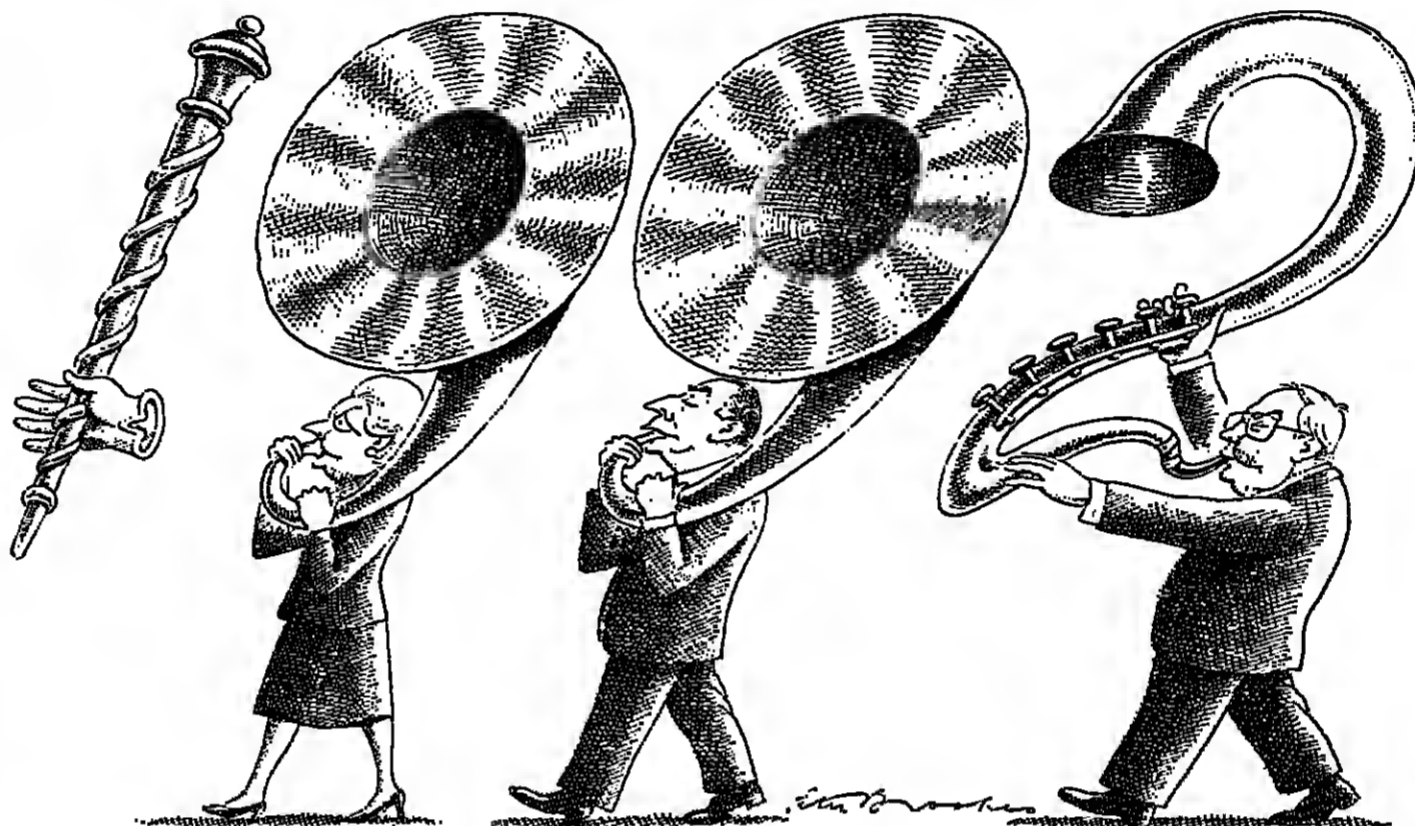
Roy Jenkins

Who will lead Europe?

I t is 40 years since there assembled at The Hague the inaugural congress of the European Movement...

There was also strong British representation. Churchill, whose fame still bestrode Europe, gave a great oration, and much of the organizational drive had been provided by his son-in-law, Duncan Sandys...

Britain will be ready for it. Lord Young continues to will the end without willing the means (expecting everyone else to vote for what Britain wants while exhorting Lord Cockfield, our senior commissioner for the internal market, for advocating equally what others want) but also mounts a vigorous publicity campaign to alert British business...



at least as the growth of combined GDP and the command over new technology are concerned. And it is this, perhaps appropriately in view of the highly materialist values of modern Europe out of its slumber towards the goal of 1992.

I n contrast with 30 or 40 years ago there is not much political idealism about it. There has not even been much reaction to the weak hand which Europe has played in recent global negotiations or to the effect which changing American orientation may have upon our future defence...

Regrettably, the amount of post received by MPs has increased horrendously in recent years. It is boosted by those with a clear commercial interest, namely lobbying organizations retained by glibly commercial, charitable or single-issue groups...

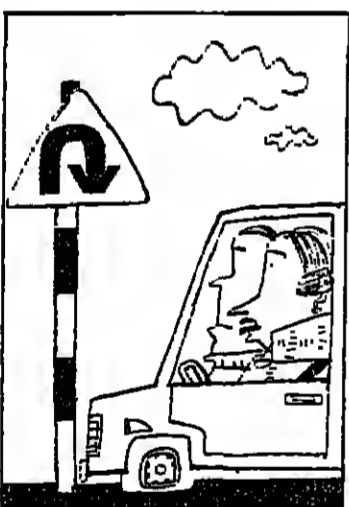
Equally expensive are the hordes of so-called "free" research assistants who seek self-evaluation by the number of parliamentary questions, amendments to Bills and early day motions and requests to ministers' offices which they concoct...

Members' privacy and parliamentary life are uneasy bedfellows: the television cameras are unlikely to increase the opportunities for slumber or slouching in the chamber...

Why do the press consider it an embarrassment for the Government when the Prime Minister and her ministers listen to, and take note of, the concern of their backbenchers? Surely that is the latter doing their job and the former responding appropriately.

Hopes nurtured by the Government that their Lordships may emerge from the backwoods to vote down opposition to the Local Government Finance Bill may be dashed. The custodians of our castles and stately homes may balk at the prospect of overtly furthering their own financial interests: they will be paying just the same community charge as their gardeners in their semis.

BARRY FANTONI



'Look dear. You can make a concession'

Arguably the most pernicious side-effect of any recent legislation has been the proliferation, congestion, pollution and illegal parking of coaches in central London resulting from coach deregulation.

Described by the Metropolitan Police as "horrendous", the city is being choked to death by these tower-blocks on wheels, whose motorway driving was so graphically described as "intimidatory" by Lynda Chalker when she was transport minister...

Awaiting framing is a letter just received from the Met thanking me for my help in bringing two coach drivers to court, where they were each fined £40 for driving the wrong way down a narrow one-way street in residential SW1. Perhaps we need a coach vigilante patrol which we certainly need a very substantial increase in their licence fee - a mere £85 per annum for a 53-seater coach is an insult; or perhaps the opposite, namely a badge acknowledging the power of the road lobby inside the Department of Transport.

Surely the archetypal act of cowardice: sending an anonymous letter to one's MP accusing him of cowardice!

Somewhere in my Dorset constituency are two ladies entitled to an apology and an explanation. During the last election, while absent briefly attending the back-man, my wife Jane sought to explain my reservations about the community charge. Having previously heard me a few doors away explain what at the time seemed to be the policy, Jane told her inquisitors that 'Robert has serious doubts about it, and the Government is awaiting the outcome of an experiment that is being carried out in Stockton.'

On further inquiry, Jane, using her fertile imagination, explained that 'this experiment is being conducted within the borough boundaries of Harold Macmillan's erstwhile constituency.'

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

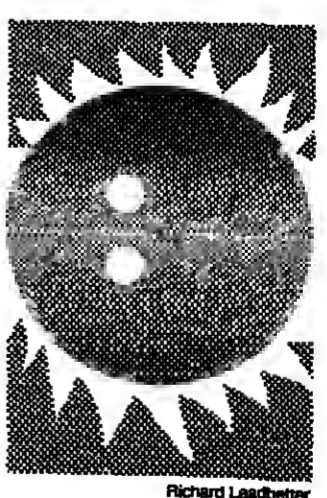
Fifth column clique

The Shadow Cabinet decision to withdraw the whip from Ron Brown is a promising sign. It suggests that the Labour leadership is more confident about what it stands for, and what it will not tolerate. That will be welcomed by all its supporters. But Brown, MP for Leith, is of no real consequence. He is an amiable enough man in private but is totally without influence in the Parliamentary Labour Party...

SCIENCE REPORT

Spot check

Suspicious that the sunspot cycle may affect the weather may be bolstered by satellite measurements of changes in the Sun's energy output since 1980. But the difference in the energy output between the maximum and minimum of the sunspot cycle is only one-ninth of 1 per cent, hardly enough to cause obvious climatic changes.



there is a link between sunspots and climate, only that the prolonged absence of sunspots during several sunspot cycles may have a cumulative effect on the climate of the Earth.

Although the new data are more precise than any previously made available, it is plain that the authors have had some difficulty in making sense of the measurements recorded by their satellite instruments. One problem has been of arranging that the SMM satellite keeps a constant orientation relative to the Sun. Another has been that of making sure that the three independent sets of instruments with which the satellite is equipped accurately monitor each other's performance.

JOHN MADDUX



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Benefits under the Housing Bill

From the Minister of State for Housing and Planning... questioning the Government's good faith...

Prospect of alternative to poll tax

From the General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation... to judge the merits of a real alternative...

OFF COURSE

The Government is looking as though it has lost its way. A fog of concessions has been allowed to fall upon what had already become a dark and confusing forest...

The modern tax collector has been brought up to be like the modern dentist, carrying out his extractions with the minimum possible pain...

These were laudable aims. The painstaking practitioners of public finance tend to believe in a big role for the State...

PLANNING FOR NATO

Nato has reached a key point in its history. By withdrawing intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe, the INF treaty has removed some of the concerns which dominated defence thinking over the last decade...

The meeting took place against a background of dispute. The West Germans remain suspicious of "modernization," while the new Danish anti-nuclear policy led to the meeting being switched from Denmark itself to Brussels...

As alliance leaders stressed at their recent summit, the continuing East-West imbalance in conventional forces remains at the core of all their security concerns...

BACK TO NOWA HUTA

The strike at Poland's biggest steelworks at Nowa Huta near Cracow has now become the country's most serious industrial dispute since the unrest of 1980-81. The conflict, which began over compensation for price rises...

Alienation in India

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Plessey Company... Your report from Delhi (April 20) about a BBC TV Panorama feature on Rajiv Gandhi entitled...

Sale of treasures

From Mr Alanair Laing... Sir, is nothing sacred to the Church of England any longer? Last Friday St Mary's Church, Elham, sold at Christie's an "Adoration of the Magi" attributed to the circle of Giotto...

Racial fairness

From Mr Edmund de Melo... Sir, the advice proffered to the ethnic population by Sir Patrick Donner (April 26), that if they dislike "our way of life, values and standards, there is nothing to prevent them from settling elsewhere," seems quite sound...

Sight to forget

From Mr John Mein... Sir, Mr Henry Wills, who lives in bosky Wiltshire, calls (April 19) for the preservation of any existing wartime buildings and structures...

Cleanliness in Korea

From Dr Peter N. Farrar... Sir, Chris Peachment's piece about Korea ("Saturday", April 23) seems to me an astonishing display of personal prejudice. There were indeed many disagreeable smells in Korea during the war...

Insure tenure

From Mr Richard Clogg... Sir, The Lord Chancellor is quoted (report, April 20) as saying in the House of Lords debate on the education Bill that the Government has not closed its "ears and minds" on the issue of academic tenure...

PM and midwives

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives... Sir, The Prime Minister is quoted (report, April 23) as saying that the Government and the Royal College of Nursing alone were responsible for drawing up a new clinical grading structure...

Misplaced humour

From Dr K. C. Bass... Sir, I was intrigued to read (University News, April 23) that Dr L.-G. Ost has been elected to a Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College for Hilary and Trinity Terms, 1988...

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 29 1910 John Massfield's concern for the weak and persecuted is illustrated by this short written when he was 31. He was made Poet Laureate in 1930

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES. Sir - I read with interest the leading article in The White Slave Traffic in The Times for April 20.

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Concern over schools religion

The Prime Minister added her voice to those expressing concern about the fact that religious teaching in schools is being cut down in the Education Act, 1944.

Nato weapon decision

It is important that those members who agreed on the withdrawal of intermediate-range nuclear weapons in the NATO summit should be aware of the implications of the decision.

Bank holiday reform

The Government is keen to reform the Bank Holiday Act, 1974, which provides for the observance of bank holidays.

Parliament next week

Parliament resumes its work next week with the Second Reading of the Education Bill.

Parliament today

Parliament today will discuss the Education Bill and the Criminal Justice Bill.

Force urged

The strike at Poland's biggest steelworks at Nowa Huta near Cracow has now become the country's most serious industrial dispute since the unrest of 1980-81.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

VEY SCHWARZ... navigational aid... chartsman's friend... After the war had been over...

After the war had been over... navigational aid... chartsman's friend... He once arrived back to the Deca factory...

After the war had been over... navigational aid... chartsman's friend... He leaves a widow, herself a member of the team that had the Deca factory...

FORD D. SIMAK... a science programme... books called the Science Reading Series...

HUGH RANKIN, B... a British to attend... a moving been the... a very good friend...

ST PAULS CATHEDRAL... MA will be installed... on 12 May...

BIRTHS... On April 26th, 1988... On April 27th, 1988... On April 28th, 1988...

DEATHS... On April 27th, 1988... On April 28th, 1988... On April 29th, 1988...

ANNOUNCEMENTS... A service of prayer and thanksgiving... A Memorial Service for the life of W. H. Baker...

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WANTED... A woman with long dark hair... A woman with short dark hair...

FLATSHARE... 2/31/2 in 2 bed flat... 2/2/2 in 2 bed flat...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL... TRAVELERS... TRAVELERS... TRAVELERS...

LEGAL NOTICES... NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP... NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP...

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مكزامن الأصيل

The history woman

A right to be vulgar

Step right up and read all about it: the greatest story never told. Warrior princesses, bloodthirsty priestesses, female Bluebeards, Bedouin women who could unilaterally divorce their husbands simply by turning their tents around — no wonder, says Dr Rosalind Miles, that male historians tried to suppress it for so many centuries.

Miles believes it takes a woman to write women's history, so she set herself the task of debunking 7,000 years of history, and in its place will shortly serve up her story, under the title *The Women's History of the World*.

The book does not concern itself with such notables as Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Catherine the Great or Elizabeth I — because, Miles writes, they are "heroines in the mirror image of heroes". Nor does it address itself to whether or not the Virgin Queen ever announced herself the possessor of "the body of a weak and feeble woman". Most professional historians are agreed, Miles says briskly, that it is highly unlikely the Queen's speech to her army in the face of the approaching Armada was probably written by a man, she says, and was almost certainly delivered by one, "as a woman's voice is not likely to carry over an army".

Miles — head of the new Centre for Women's Studies at Coventry Polytechnic, lecturer, journalist and author of both best-selling blockbusters (*Return to Eden* and *Bitter Legacy*) and a biography of Ben Jonson — takes her new book very seriously, although she suspects her publisher at first expected her to come up with something along the lines of "Who cooked the Last Supper?", as she puts it.

Not that such speculation is irrelevant, she adds: "Men make one noble gesture and go down in history forever — like the young Roman who would rush forward and bury himself on the sword of the enemy. Brilliant; but who sees to the children? Women ensure that life will go on."

But is Miles's heroic vision of "poets, priestesses, queens, mothers, lovers, athletes, soldiers and litigious courtesans" who were undaunted by the myth that women were "physically weak, emotionally unstable or intellectually ill-equipped" any more accurate than centuries of "male" history? She bristles, like a mother told her perfect new baby might have a slight squint. If she errs at all, she maintains, it is merely on the side of enthusiasm. Her research, says Miles, a classical scholar with five academic degrees, is rock solid.

She spent months pouring over documents in the British Museum, the Bodleian and libraries all over the

Why is Rosalind Miles intent on debunking 7,000 years of history? Because, she tells Victoria McKee, men have got it wrong



Ready for battle: Rosalind Miles, "happy to live with the consequences"

country. She studied the Bible, the Koran and Hammurabi's Code. She used her knowledge of Latin, Greek and Middle English to decipher contemporary chronicles and laundry lists — where she maintains "the real history resides".

In her preface she notes: "In 1238, only one maid servant, 'awake by night and singing psalms', saw the assassin who gained entry to the bedchamber of the King of England, knife in hand. She changed the course of history — and the chronicler didn't even get her name." (Miles herself neglects to mention the name of the King — it was Henry III.)

One editor at her publishers, she marvels, actually asked her whether such omissions really mattered. "Matter? It's the whole point," Miles screamed. She cannot disguise the fact that she is disappointed by the surprisingly slim volume that emerged after radical pruning by her publishers — and by the fact that there are no illustrations, and just a flower on the cover. They had originally toyed with creating a mock-Bauhaus tapestry with all the figures female, but finally a rethink of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel scene of God infusing Adam with the spark of life was agreed upon. "But the artist drew this female

lying back with a come-to-bed look on her face, instead of being vital and surging forward into life," Miles says incredulously, "and when I suggested that God had to be a woman too — well, all hell broke loose." So she was left with a white flower of truce on an inoffensive pale blue background.

Miles paints some pretty graphic pictures with prose. After proving — at least to her own satisfaction — in the first chapter that women are "the original, the first sex, the biological norm from which males are only a deviation", the crusade moves on through the ages to chronicle the exploits of women such as Artemisia, "the first known woman sea-captain, whose command of her fleet at the battle of Marathon was so devastating that the Athenians put a huge bounty on her head"; Zenobia, the Scythian warrior queen who "routed the Roman Army, went on to capture Egypt and Asia Minor, and when finally defeated by the Romans, escaped death by seducing a Roman senator"; and Fredegund, the Frankish "female Bluebeard" who murdered her husband, his ex-wife and all her stepchildren and lived to die peacefully in her own bed in 597 AD.

Miles, who is married and has two children, admits: "Although I was incredibly attracted to the idea of the eternal woman, the woman who lived, worked, bore her children, looked after her man and did her thing and died, if I'm truthful the women who really attracted me were the assertive, egotistical ones who did just what they wanted in the way men would have done. Fredegund was an absolute monster, but there's something attractive about that relentless ego drive that women so often have to inhibit."

She is prepared for — and almost relishes the prospect of — cries of outrage over the book. "It says 'basically, boys, you got it wrong.' And I don't expect the boys to like that — but I'm perfectly happy to live with the consequences." But, she adds, "most of the men I've talked to about it find it the sexiest subject in the universe — it's the best cocktail party gambit."

The book is dedicated to "all the women of the world who have had no history", but she really wrote it, says Miles firmly, "for my mother and my daughter" — and without any thought of television millions (her two novels have both become television series). She hopes it will appeal "to anyone with any interest in the human race, since it's the history of life, love and the whole damn thing."

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988
The Women's History of the World will be published on May 23 by Michael Joseph (£12.95)



BARBARA AMIEL

publicity showed a nearly nude girl lying sprawled at the feet of four brooding men. Women's groups protested and very soon mom and dad were back, she in tuffed pink chenille dressing gown and he in his Sunday morning argyle sweater.

The *Tatler* article in question uses the convention of the hooker look. The model is in a cheap little room, perhaps in Paris or Milan. Her iron bed is spare, the walls are bare, she sits in her scarlet lipstick and black Foggal stockings waiting. The fact that the merchandiser shows is on the expensive side

would take a very inspired use of the holy symbols of any group of people to convince me that their place in a commercial or erotic picture was justified. These pictures were technically well done but the juxtaposition of religious artefact and low eroticism was clearly attempting to shock. I don't know whether I am delighted or alarmed to find that my taste is somewhat similar to that of the Cardinal's office, but I can't help feeling that this whole approach lacks refinement.

The Cardinal, however, was not simply satisfied with letting his tastes be known. He has gone to the Press Council and the Advertising Standards Authority to complain about this feature and it is here that we part company. I'm afraid I find it offensive, tasteless and dangerous to try to legislate or enforce one's tastes or aesthetic judgement. Neither the Cardinal's aesthetics nor indeed mine should have the force of law, regulating or mandating review. We have not yet reached the point in this free society, I hope, where it is illegal to offend. If you do something exploitative and tasteless, you may run the risk of having it pointed out, but are we going to allow tribunals to set up standards of inoffensiveness? While my sympathies are with the Cardinal, I don't believe that either his tastes or mine should be made enforceable on anyone else. There are courts of law for libel or defamation and these are the proper places to sort out any contentions.

A friend suggested that I might feel differently had it been my religious symbols clutched to a model's bosom. I suppose it would be even more tasteless to exploit a holy symbol of a minority religion and might even acquire an element of mockery or threat. But the principle remains the same. Stare of David or not, I stand by *Tatler's* right to be vulgar.

Meanwhile, if the complaint to the Press Council is upheld, *Tatler* has a "moral obligation" to publish the Council's critical adjudication. Speaking only for myself, I think in such circumstances *Tatler* has a moral obligation to party to no such thing — unless of course it illustrates the adjudication in accordance with its own fine sensibilities.

Eroticism has often been a mixture of the sacred and the profane

When I first heard about the fuss, which was reported on Wednesday, I leaped through the article once more. The hooker look is a staple of fashion photography which probably started in the Twenties in Germany. It has come and gone since then according to the mood of society and had its last great flourish in the Seventies, when the vogue for German photographer Helmut Newton was at its peak. A lot of less talented photographers and art directors mimicked his style, often unhappily. In Toronto, I recall one very respectable Canadian department store chain which succumbed to Newton fever in the Christmas of 1976. Instead of the usual advertisements of men and food staring blissfully over wall-to-wall shag carpeting at the vacuum cleaner under the Christmas tree, the seasonal

Social power of positive drinking

Last week *The Times* published extracts from *The Demon Drink*, in which the wine writer Jancis Robinson (below) examined some aspects of the dangers of alcohol abuse.

Here she celebrates instead the positive side of drinking

Like smokers, even social drinkers are starting to allow themselves to be driven into a pen labelled "Sinners". No one, it seems, dares wave a modest flag for our favourite source of mild euphoria. That alcohol used unwisely is both socially and medically harmful is no good reason for feeling glibly by association about sensible drinking. It would be absurd to forget that strong drink and wine in particular, is a gift rich in civilizing influence and is even, in many different cultures, imbued with religious significance.

Used wisely, alcohol can enhance our lives as no other substance can. The medical facts suggest that, unlike smoking, drinking in moderation is by no means bad for us, and may even do us good. Socially, a good 90 per cent of us, the British adults who drink regularly, know that it is a reliable lifter of the spirits, gear-changer, and oiler of the wheels of sociability, which is why we continue to do it.

There is also the indisputable fact that so many alcoholic drinks are just so extraordinarily delicious. When I find that my dinner tastes better with a particular wine and vice versa, am I simply justifying an addiction? Are those who meet to discuss the relative merits of Lowland and Highland malt whiskies actually providing themselves with a cover for drug abuse? Is the master brewer a mere pusher?

Of course not. Connoisseurship exists and provides real sensory and intellectual pleasure to an even wider slice of our society. Alcohol, far from being connoisseurship's *raison d'être*, is increasingly seen by some as an inconvenient ingredient in the business of appreciating life's more straightforward pleasures.

We cannot pretend that alcohol is not psychoactive, that it does not have the power to affect our state of consciousness. But although as a nation we probably cling more to the notion of complete self-determination than most, we need feel no guilt or inadequacy about using a psychoactive drug — so long as we can control our use of it.



We do it every time we drink a cup of tea or coffee, after all, and for most of us alcohol is markedly less addictive than caffeine. For centuries almost every culture in the world has felt the need for a similar escape route from mundane reality, or, as some societies have viewed it, for a direct line to the supernatural.

the nation's biggest killer (killing about a hundred times more Britons each year than cirrhosis, for example). Those who consume about two drinks a day are also likely to have lower blood pressure than non-drinkers (although, conversely, those with high blood pressure should watch their alcohol intake carefully).

Alcohol's sedative properties can be positively harnessed, too, as medical authorities concerned about our dependence on sleeping pills and tranquilizers have pointed out. Its role in easing the problems of old age now has scientific endorsement: after a cocktail hour was introduced at a Boston old people's home, doctors found that their charges needed less medication, slept better and were more mobile. Alcohol also stimulates the appetite, can increase the absorption of certain useful minerals, and was doubtless the world's first painkiller and antiseptic, as St Paul pointed out.

These are just some of the reasons why drink is by no means all bad, and why we should make the most of it in some circumstances (the celebratory binge being a fine institution) and the least in others (a period of abstinence being essential for the liver).

We are already learning to treat alcohol more wisely, as witness the death of the three-martini lunch and the tidal wave of mineral water that is crashing over caterers' profit margins.

But we must be careful at this crossroads in our relationship with alcohol, now that so much more is known about its negative aspects, that we do not allow ourselves to join many North Americans and Scandinavians in throwing a heavy and unnecessary shroud of guilt over even moderate drinking. We now have all the more reason to respect alcohol, quite rightly, for the powerful drug that it is, but also to rejoice in the fact that we live in a society that allows us easy access to such wonderful stuff.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988
Jancis Robinson on the Demon Drink is published by Mitchell Beazley (£9.95)



All hands on deck: a ship-shape Libby Purves with husband Paul Heiney and their children

Closing down sail

By the time you read this, I should be well offshore. We are taking a long-dreamed-of sabbatical to sail around the entire coast of Britain, or attempt to.

We are emphatically not pursuing any records and our stopping places will be frequent and wholly unpredictable, being determined by curiosity, weather forecasts, and the dictates of the infant crew, aged five and three. So in every department of our lives, we have had to say (with mounting glee, I must admit): "Don't call us, because you can't. We might call you." It is a heady feeling.

But it is more difficult than it sounds, stealing a summer. The logistics of stepping out of your normal well-rutted life from May Day until the beginning of September are daunting: the delegating of a house, two jobs, and several very dumb animals is time-consuming and anxious, and the bureaucratic aspects defy belief.

Four months is just too long to let things slide: a succession of bills, unfinished hurricane insurance, tax and VAT demands will appear when we are gone and need to be neutralized in advance. For officials administering these matters find it very tiresome to be told that you have no forwarding address whatsoever. I think it unsettles them to think of taxpayers, VAT registrars, people with DHSS numbers wandering around loose.

Stowing a boat for a long voyage is an interesting exercise in whittling life down to its essentials and sorting out family priorities. Adults, for

Why one family shut up shop for four months and set off on a voyage round Britain

place our trust in the fact that parental love will outweigh parental irritation in the end, and that in our over-sophisticated society, for modern parents to have an opportunity to spend a decent time together alone with their children, working to the same purpose, tending the same little ship and sharing the good times and the bad, is a rare privilege.

On a common voyage, lasting several months, we will all have to learn a bit of tolerance and adaptability. We think small children have great potential for both: they won't have television, daily hot baths, or more than minimal toys, but they will have us both, and new scenes and harbours every day, and a familiar cosy boat to come home to when they have met the puffs of Skomer or heard the wild song of the seals in the Sound of Harris. They will miss their best friends, and the cats, but at least we learn the lessons of remembering and letter-writing, and the joy of reunion in September.

We do get cold feet occasionally. But the most encouraging thing is that the people who really know a lot about children's needs haven't raised an eyebrow. Our GP advised on first aid and medicines, and might even turn up himself to sail a leg of the journey with us; and as for Nicholas's school, without a moment's hesitation they told us to go for it, supplied books, and prepared a log-book entitled "Nicholas Goes to Sea". So we've got to go now, haven't we?

Libby Purves

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Harrods KNIGHTSBRIDGE

fashioned cast again

Richard Mansfield

PHANT PRODUCTIONS

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
* Seats available
* Returns only
(*) Access for disabled

FILMS

Also on national release
* Advance booking possible
BABETTE'S FEAST (U): One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales, immaculately transferred to the screen by a folk...



Violence viewed on canvas

'Mercenaries I, 1979' (above) by Leon Golub, a 66-year-old based in Chicago, is one of a series of this artist's pictures addressing military themes. Golub's paintings examine the mentality of willful cruelty, violent interrogation and torture...

America, Golub has stated that his work applies to universal concepts of male sexuality, domination and aggression. Eight of Golub's massive paintings ('Mercenaries I is 10 ft x 14 ft) from the Mercenary and Interrogation series are included in an exhibition...

THEATRE LONDON

BLUES IN THE NIGHT: Hit black blues show, with Carol Wiles, Sarah Woollett, Helen Getzer and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a...

OUT OF TOWN

LEEDS: * Jane Eyre: Wendy Nottingham and David Gwillim in intriguing new adaptation by Fay Wood...

WORD-WATCHING

HERZOG (C) A high-ranking German or Austrian noble, before 1919, when they were mercifully abolished.

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

LONDON: (1) Three Men and a Cradle (1987) (2) Broadcast News (1987) (3) Moonstruck (1987) (4) The Unbearable (1987) (5) The Last Emperor (1987) (6) Empire of the Sun (1987) (7) Fatal Attraction (1987) (8) Withnail and I (1987)

GARDENS

AVON: The Manor House, Weston-super-Mare, 2m N of Clevedon: 4-acre garden...

ROCK

* FAST COLOUR: Drummer John Stevens leads Harry Backus and Dudu Puwama in some raucous free-influenced improvisation.

OPERA

* THE KNOT GARDEN: First night of Nicholas Hytner's new production of Tippet's psychological maze for the Royal Opera...

OTHER EVENTS

HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW: One of the most spectacular early shows in the country with competitions, displays, landscaped settings and horticultural displays...

GALLERIES

CONVERSION PIECES: A show of novel designs in furniture, ceramics and glass. Greenacre Workshops, Brewery Court, Cranston, 10-11, Mon-Sat 10-5.30pm, free, until June 11.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE: SOUTH BANK SUMMER ORGAN SHOW: Four Sunday afternoon organ recitals...

LAST CHANCE

THE COUNTRY WIFE: Final performances of William Wycherley's restoration comedy...

WALKS

THE CITY OF WREN AND DR JOHNSON: Meet Museum of London, 2.30pm, £2 (also May 9).

CONCERTS

* NEW DANCES: With Robin Miller as soloist, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in the world premiere of his new work...

DANCE

* COPPELIA: Northern Ballet's production has traditional choreography but transfers the action to Lancashire. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 01-278 8916 7.30-9.30pm £3.50-15.

JAZZ

* DUSKO GOYKOVICH: Backed by the Stan Tracey trio, the sax-woody Herman trumpet plays for two nights. Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 01-878 5241 8.30pm, £5.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS: ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL: 01-262 3191. 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES: Winner of a 'BEST PLAY' award...

THEATRES: ADELPHI 036 7611 or 240 7913. ALBERT 036 3878 or 379 6665. ALHAMBRA 036 3878 or 379 6665. ALHAMBRA 036 3878 or 379 6665.

CINEMAS: CHELSEA CINEMA: 01-262 3191. GUILD CINEMA: 01-262 3191. GUILD CINEMA: 01-262 3191.

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 Unlike regular soldiers
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 and recreation.

PART 2

FRIDAY APRIL 29 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
 1444.7 (-4.2)
 FT-SE 100
 1804.4 (-2.3)

Bargains
 27625 (26684)

USM (Datastream)
 151.19 (+0.46)

THE POUND

US dollar
 1.8760 (same)

W German mark
 3.1301 (-0.0131)

Trade-weighted
 78.0 (-0.2)

13,000 link up with Stockwatch

Applications for membership of *Stockwatch*, the computerized telephone share price service launched jointly by *The Times* and Citycall, continue to run at more than 1,000 a day.

To date *Stockwatch*, which this week became the first service of its kind to offer a full coverage of the unit trust and bonds market, as well as share prices, has attracted nearly 13,000 members.

The introduction of 7,000 unit trust and bond prices lifts the total number of prices available through *Stockwatch* to more than 11,000, and makes it easily the most comprehensive service available.

Information on *Stockwatch*, and an application form and details of a free membership offer to readers of *The Times*, appear on page 24. And readers can bear a free demonstration of the service simply by telephoning 0898 141 142.

New offer ends trusts' battle

Throgmorton Trust last night ended its long battle with Framlington, the unit trust group, and announced agreement on a higher offer, worth £70 million.

The increased offer values Framlington shares at 200p each. Throgmorton has received acceptances from holders of 56 per cent of Framlington.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2044.43 (-3.48)
Dow Jones	2743.12 (+242.15)
Tokyo	2598.14 (-3.88)
Hong Kong	2492 (-1.0)
Sydney	1448.8 (+4.5)
Frankfurt	1367.5 (+5.0)
General	4669.1 (+5.7)
Paris	312.0 (same)
Zurich	449.8 (-2.0)
London	
FT 30 Share	1444.7 (-4.2)
FT-SE 100	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT Gold Mines	211.1 (+1.7)
FT Food Interest	225.2 (+5.0)
FT Govt Secs	89.70 (-0.33)
Recent issues	Page 25
Closing prices	Page 29

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES

UK Land	662 1/2p (+65p)
Highland Dist	113 3/4p (+3p)
D&G Singapore	525.0 (+1.0)
Royal Insurance	426p (+12p)
Vitacomb	702 1/2p (+10p)
Cable & Wireless	343 3/4p (+12p)
Racal Electronics	313p (+7 1/2p)
STC	256p (+13p)
Courtaulds	363 1/2p (+10 1/2p)
SPP	154 1/2p (+22p)
Shell	329.0 (+5.0)
VSEL	532 1/2p (+64p)

FALLS

Rowntree	911 1/2p (-14p)
Cadbury Schwepp	511.0 (-13p)
ICM	270 1/2p (-13p)
NIMW Computers	70p (-10p)
Arlen	135p (-10p)
M J Casson	185p (-10p)
ICI	976 1/2p (-15p)
Coats Vytella	242 1/2p (-8p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8%
 3-month interbank 8 1/2-9 1/2%
 3-month eligible bills 8 7/8-9 1/8%
 buying rate
 US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
 Federal Funds 7 1/4%
 3-month Treasury Bills 5.89-5.87%
 30-year bonds 9 7/8-9 7/16%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.8760	£: \$1.8710
£: DM1.1801	£: DM1.9690
£: Sfr2.2564	£: Sfr1.3645
£: FF10.8257	£: FF5.8685
£: Yen235.47	£: Yen124.57p
£: Index: 92.4	£: Index: 92.4
ECU £0.661590	SDR £0.736855

GOLD

London Fixing:
 AM \$452.15 pm \$452.10
 close \$451.25-451.75 (£240.75-241.25)
 New York:
 Comex \$451.50-452.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm \$17.10bbi (\$17.46)
 * Denotes latest trading price

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Racal plans flotation of Vodafone

Racal Electronics is planning to float off Racal Telecommunications, including its fast-growing Vodafone cellular telephone operator, as a separate public company, probably within three to five months.

Speculation that the decision was a rushed defensive move designed to thwart a hovering predator sent Racal's share price soaring 72p to 318p last night, after 65 million shares changed hands.

Racal says the aim is to unleash the full benefits of the highly rated cellular telephone industry. Racal believes Vodafone's glossy prospects are not fully reflected in Racal's - until recently - sleepy share price.

The decision to sell, in principle, a minority stake in the Vodafone empire was taken at a board meeting yesterday morning, after what Racal says was months of deliberation. The subsequent announcement was made to try to prevent Racal's share price being jostled by speculation as the plans progressed.

But the market is dizzy with speculation that Racal is being stalked by an unwelcome predator, after evidence that as much as 20 per cent of the company's shares may have

Solid half-time results help sweeten takeover



Smiles of success: (left) Neil Shaw, chairman, and James Kerr Muir of Tate & Lyle yesterday (Photograph: Alan Weller)

T&L lifts Staley bid to \$1.4bn

Tate & Lyle has raised its takeover bid for Staley Continental, the Illinois corn refiner, to \$1.4 billion (£746 million), and yesterday supported its move with a penny-a-share sweetener on the interim dividend and a solid half time profits increase of 33.6 per cent.

The new offer, up from \$32 a share to \$35, brought no immediate response from the Staley board, which had rejected the first bid and has effectively put the company up for auction. T&L's tender offer expires on May 10.

US bank bid agreed by Royal

The Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday revealed that it was paying \$440 million (£234 million) for Citizens Financial Group, the Rhode Island bank with which it has been negotiating a takeover for more than a month.

Under the agreed terms of the takeover, the Royal Bank will pay \$30.50 per ordinary share for Citizens, representing a price/earnings ratio of 16.9 times.

The terms of the deal were widely welcomed in the City. Mr John Aitken, banking analyst for County NatWest WoodMac, said: "The stock market had anticipated the worst about a Royal Bank deal in the US, but this is considerably better than expected."

Market observers continue to believe that Suchard is unwilling to lock horns in what would be a fiercely contested battle with its much larger competitor, Nestlé.

Suchard triggered off the battle for Rowntree when it made a dawn raid two weeks ago, acquiring 14.9 per cent at prices of up to 630p a share.

Suchard nears 20% holding

Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss chocolate group, has bought more shares in Rowntree to lift its stake to within a whisker of 20 per cent.

The Swiss group has been steadily adding to its holding in Rowntree since its rival, Nestlé, launched a £2.1 billion takeover bid on Tuesday.

Nestlé, which is prevented from paying more than the 800p cash offer on the table, has been forced to wait on the sidelines as Suchard has continued its buying spree.

Suchard last night admitted that it had picked up a further 5.8 million shares at 925p, to take its stake to 18.7 per cent as the close of business on Wednesday. Further buying yesterday has almost certainly boosted this total to about 20 per cent.

B&C sets aside £45m for losses on US investment

Mr John Gunn's British & Commonwealth has provided for losses totalling nearly £45 million on a \$60 million investment in Kaines, the US commodity trader.

Losses of \$20 million were taken against investment profits in the first half of the year. Thereafter B&C took full control of Kaines in order to give it backing without investing more money. Since then, Kaines's operations have been run down sharply and B&C has now taken additional losses of £30.7 million as an extraordinary item.

Mr Gunn believes the losses in Kaines contracts have been fully allowed for and the whole operation has been wound down.

British & Commonwealth profits rose the less surged by 154 per cent to £130.9 million in 1987, a year in which, Mr Gunn, now chairman, says: "The management of the group, the sources of turnover and profit, and, the

More Rowntree shares bought

Volcker lends weight to ICI board

ICI may not have caused too many surprises with its first-quarter results, but yesterday, but it was able to lay on an interesting line in new appointments.

Mr Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, is to join as a non-executive director for about £20,000 a year, plus expenses. Britain's biggest industrial company will have America's biggest central banker, in terms of both physique and influence, on the board.

ICI regards the appointment, made as a result of some deft headhunting by Mr John Clements, the finance director and a long-time acquaintance of the former Fed chief, as a considerable coup.

Mr Volcker left the Fed last summer after eight years as chairman. He told a congressional committee that he gave up the job because he stopped

Profit up despite currency loss

ICI increased pretax profits in the first quarter of 1988 from £334 million to £358 million despite currency losses of at least £30 million. Strong demand for most of the group's products supported the advance and these trading conditions have continued into the second quarter.

The group sounded a note of warning over the effects of a strong pound on the translation of its overseas earnings. The sterling average exchange rate was 19 per cent higher against the dollar in the first quarter of 1988 compared to the first quarter of 1987.

The market was hit earlier in the day by fears of a rights issue from ICI which proved unfounded. With a gearing level at about 40 per cent of shareholders' funds, ICI has continued to deny that it intends to raise additional capital.

Reserve Board became tiresome. At the Fed, Mr Volcker had a sign on his desk which read: "My take-home pay won't take me home." Since returning to the private sector, after 30 years in public service, he has begun to make up for this.

While eschewing the chance to make a fast buck with one of the big Wall Street firms, he has, among other appointments, become chairman of the specialist investment bank James D Wolfensohn Inc, and a part-time professor of international economic policy at Princeton.

LCT

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LCT FORGING NEW FRONTIERS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Lloyd's members criticize working party proposals

By Alison Edie
The Association of Lloyd's Members, which represents the interests of Lloyd's non-working members, has criticized two proposals in a consultative document issued yesterday by Lloyd's as going against the letter and spirit of the report in matters of key concern to members.

The issues are mandatory deficit clauses, whereby a member's losses would be offset against his profits before he paid profit commission to his agent, and "pay now sue later" procedures.

The government-appointed committee headed by Sir Patrick Neill QC advocated mandatory deficit clauses for managing agents, and said Lloyd's should temper the effect of the "pay now sue later" provision in the standard agency agreement.

Mr Brian Fomeroy, a member of the three-man Neill committee, was on Lloyd's working party and did not dissent from its conclusions.

The Lloyd's consultative document, from the Underwriting Agency Agreements Working Group, advocated a mandatory horizontal deficit clause - across all a name's syndicates in one year - for members' agents.

Mr Edward Walker-Arnott, chairman of the working party that produced the document, said a mandatory deficit clause would result in an increase in fixed charges to names.

It would be fairer to give names the choice of whether they wanted a deficit clause with their members' agents, who place names on syndicates. But it feared a mandatory deficit clause for managing agents, who run syndicates, would cause interference in the market place.

The working party recommended that "pay now sue later" provisions should be included in a name's agreement with his managing but not his members' agent.

The ALM wants names to be allowed to establish their case before an independent arbiter and, if successful, pay the disputed sum to Lloyd's as trustee.

Reagan to use veto on trade bill

From Bailey Morris Washington

President Reagan will veto the omnibus trade bill which was given final approval by Congress on Wednesday but wants to work with legislators to produce an acceptable substitute, the White House said yesterday.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, told reporters: "The President will veto the bill. But he added that Mr Reagan wanted to work with Congress to thrash out an "acceptable" trade bill that would strip out a provision requiring advance notice of plant closings."

Racal rides the wave of positive thinking

The extraordinary rise of Racal's shares is at the same time a tribute, a lesson and a warning. The revelation that Racal is looking hard at a flotation of its cellular radio activities took the market by surprise.

Nevertheless, the reaction was a tribute to the commercial instinct of Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's chairman, and his board, which certainly recognized a "once in a lifetime chance" when the Government put the cellular radio franchise out to tender.

In the early days, when the company faced several years of negative cashflow due to the immense cost of setting up a nationwide coverage of base stations, sceptical investors had only a cheery series of forecasts to raise their spirits.

COMMENT

lessen to companies, such as GEC, which have singularly failed to latch on to so much of the potential which has appeared in the electronics industry during the past decade or more. GEC was easily the best-placed British company to ride the crest of a wave of consumer electronics which has filled ordinary households on five continents with appliances and gadgetry to an extent undreamed of 15 years ago.

The market reaction to Racal's possible flotation is also a warning that having created such a highly prized asset as Vodafone, Racal is in the same category as Rowntree, Cadbury and others now being eyed up in the context of a post-1992 pan-European market-place.

BP chief predicts \$25 oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Peter Walters, the chairman of BP, yesterday predicted the world oil price will climb to \$25 a barrel in the mid-1990s - just as the North Sea assets which the company acquired in taking over Britoil come on stream.

He told the company's annual meeting that the target price of \$18 which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was trying to achieve was the right price at present.

"Even today, two decades after it began producing, the North Sea is still an area of enormous potential, offering exciting opportunities in politically stable conditions for many years ahead."

financial strength, technological expertise and international experience they can command if these opportunities are to be realized.

"By adding BP's resources to those of Britoil, we can achieve more together than either could have done alone. That was the thinking behind our bid."

"They have stated they regard their stake in BP as a long-term strategic investment. That is a good reason why it would not be in their interests to do anything which might be interpreted as inconsistent with this objective."



The price is right: Sir Peter Walters at yesterday's meeting

North Sea oil outlook good, says broker

By Our Energy Correspondent

The North Sea will continue to make a significant contribution to Britain's economy in the next decade, according to oil analysts at County NatWest WoodMac.

"If the outlook for the fields in production looks bright, the prospects for the UK as an exploration province is better still. Indeed the North Sea is regarded by many as being one of the world's premier areas of future potential," the report says.

SPP agrees £31m Braithwaite bid

By Cliff Feltham

Braithwaite, the engineering and catering equipment group, yesterday launched a £31 million takeover bid for SPP, the maker of Godiva fire pumps.

The merger will create a new force in specialist equipment hire by bringing together Braithwaite's subsidiary, Andrews and the SPP offshoot, Sykes.

A royal share

Could it be that the Queen owns shares in the Hudson's Bay Company? According to author Peter Newman, who is half-way through *Caesars of the Wilderness*, a four-volume history of Canada's oldest and most powerful company, that just might be the case.

Cleaning up at the dogs

Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, the Bermuda-based cleaning to security group previously known as Hawley, is moving in royal circles these days.

Saga of free-spending

TSB may have shifted its annual meeting from a Friday to a Thursday to make it cheaper for pensioners to attend.

Cashing in

The honesty of the people of New York was put to the test on Sunday - and all but one failed.

Party time

Ian Kerr, the executive director of Kidder Peabody International, the American investment bank, is, I hear, planning to celebrate his 46th birthday tomorrow in some considerable style.

STALEY

Dividend and Earnings up

- Significant improvement in UK sugar refining
- Redpath Sugars results remain very satisfactory
- Sugar trading and malting businesses achieve substantially higher profits
- Interim dividend increased by 11%
- Earnings per share up 16%

Unaudited Interim Results	1988 26 weeks to 26th March	1987 26 weeks to 26th March
Pre-tax profits	£43.8m	£40.2m
Interim dividend per £1 ordinary share	10.0p	9.0p
Earnings per £1 ordinary share	35.2p	30.3p

Further copies may be obtained from: C P McFie, Secretary, Staley & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DQ.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, the Bermuda-based cleaning to security group previously known as Hawley, is moving in royal circles these days. He has, I hear, rubbed shoulders with the Princess of Wales twice in as many months and was, I am told, the man who persuaded her to attend a greyhound meeting at Wembley Stadium last week - the first royal patronage of the sport for many years.

Saga of free-spending

TSB may have shifted its annual meeting from a Friday to a Thursday to make it cheaper for pensioners to attend. Saga Holidays, whose AGM takes place in Folkestone today, has gone one better. It has offered all shareholders free second-class rail travel to their headquarters on the Kent coast, with the option of first-class travel costing just £5, from anywhere in Britain. It also offered to arrange discounted hotel accommodation in Folkestone or London. Given the nature of its business it is perhaps hardly surprising that Saga is able to negotiate good deals. Last year it cost the company just £2,000 to transport an AGM audience of 200. This year as many as 350 are expected, some coming from the north of Scotland.

Cashing in

The honesty of the people of New York was put to the test on Sunday - and all but one failed. The test in question came after a teller at Federal Savings and Loan, on the corner of 14th Street and 1st Avenue, erroneously filled an automatic cash machine with \$20 bills instead of \$5 ones. Long queues quickly formed and one man, a writer, who refused to be identified for fear of prosecution, said: "I called everyone I knew and told them to get down quick." An actor, who requested \$40 and was paid \$160, said that people's reactions varied wildly. One person apparently screamed with joy, another barely raised his eyebrows and then sneaked away, while one woman launched into a long lecture about how it was money the bank owed her anyway. Only one individual used the 24-hour emergency telephone to report the malfunction.

Party time

Ian Kerr, the executive director of Kidder Peabody International, the American investment bank, is, I hear, planning to celebrate his 46th birthday tomorrow in some considerable style. The venue will be

Carol Leonard

g shape

operated by... further 11 per cent... Continental Europe... cent against the dollar... six per cent... against the dollar... on first quarter... and is... no signs of abating.

Thus, earlier estimates... the £20-230 million... rency losses seen in... would be unlikely to... vast majority of the... now the... of the market.

In the first quarter... the group dropped around... million at the present... level on earnings... For the full year, the... unlikely to quadruple... may well triple.

Not even with this... 1988 profits... £1.4 billion. On this... shares are selling on... of 8.1 times future... and stand on a 25 per... discount to the market... yield of 10 per cent... funds could do worse.

The second quarter... crucial one, and to... remains good. In... ICI is not suffering... the transactions side.

If the group makes... of £750 million for... months, it should reach... billion for the year... price already appears to... taken more than the... uncertainty on board.

Australian deal

Pikington, at Dandenong... Melbourne, which... about 3,000 tonnes a... second plant is under... construction near Sydney.

Net assets at March 31... Aus\$131 million. Sales... year to end-March were... mated at Aus\$446 million... pretax profits at Aus\$... million.

The joint venture... makes patented and... glass for the motor or... building markets and... distribution, wholesaling... retailing interests. It... has clearance from the... than authorities.

Unit trusts

up your... calling... Stock... position... the voice... person... finance... voice... will... later... to a... a... you call... you... five... recording... personality... am each...

● To help you identify... the voices, photographs... cludes will appear in... Times on Saturday... together with an... coupon.

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Staley

Dividend and Earnings up

Significant improvement in UK sugar refining

Redpath Sugars results remain very satisfactory

Sugar trading and malting businesses achieve substantially higher profits

Interim dividend increased by 11%

Earnings per share up 16%

Unaudited Interim Results

Pre-tax profits £43.8m

Interim dividend per £1 ordinary share 10.0p

Earnings per £1 ordinary share 35.2p

THE CHANCE TO WIN £50,000

STOCKWATCH application

STOCK MARKET

Oil shares boosted by takeover fever

The current wave of bid fever sweeping the stock market switched to the oil sector last night amid reports that several of the second line oil exploration groups were about to come under the hammer.

Ultramar and rival London & Scottish Marine Oil were both being napped as possible targets and stood out in after hours trading with double-figure gains.

Lasmo led the way higher with a rise of 26p to a new peak of 410p on suggestions that RTZ, the mining finance house, had sold part of its near 30 per cent holding to Atlantic Richfield, the US oil group, which recently bought Tricentral after losing to BP in the battle for control of Britoil.

But Mr David Ferguson, a director of Lasmo, said: "We have been informed that large chunks of shares have been changing hands through the market. Apart from the RTZ stake, which I know nothing about, there have been some large stakes on the move."

Ultramar also ended the day 26p dearer at 410p as 8 million shares were traded on reports that Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, who already owns 13 per cent of the shares, had been offered 400p a share for his holding. Stockbrokers reckon that a full bid will

follow, valuing Ultramar at £1.1 billion.

Investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of today's British trade figures which are expected to throw up a current account deficit of £500 million.

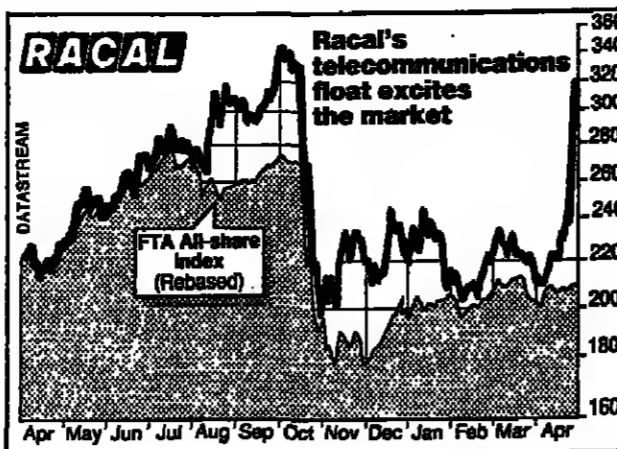
Talk of a rights issue from ICI, accompanying its first-quarter figures, proved wide of the mark. The group weighed in with pretax profits at the top end of brokers' estimates of £358 million (£334 million).

But ICI's performance failed to generate much business. Interest was confined to special situations.

The FT-SE 100 share index recovered an early fall of nearly 11 points to stand 2.8

points higher at about midday before drifting off late as Wall Street showed an early loss to finish 2.3 points down at 1,804.4. The FT 30 share index closed 4.2 points lower at 1,444.7.

Gilt-edged securities lost 1/8 as fears grew that a poor set of



RACAL's telecommunications float excites the market

trade figures today could signal an upturn in interest rates.

BPB Industries, the building materials group, closed at overnight levels of 280p on a turnover of more than 2 million shares.

Late stories doing the rounds in the market last night said that BPB was about to launch a counter-bid for United States Gypsum, currently the target of a \$42-a-share offer from someone else.

The brightest spot of the day was the news that Racal Electronics is considering floating off its telecommunications division, which includes Vodaphone, into a separate company. The Racal share price responded with a rise of 72p to 318p as 65 million shares changed hands.

ket of late - along with the rest of the electronics sector - with profits failing to match market expectations. Analysts are looking for pretax profits of £137 million for the current year compared with £100.3 million last time.

THORN EMI was again a firm market, advancing by 5p to 631p, on persistent speculation that Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, had taken a sizeable holding in the company.

Shares of P&P, the computer distribution company chaired by Professor Roland Smith, made an encouraging start to trading on the big board.

Placed at 175p by J Henry Schroder Wagg & Co, they

Expect news soon of a boardroom reshuffle at Baldwin, the printer and concrete supplier. The word is that Mr David Landau, the chairman, has just approved the appointment of a new chief executive from Kennedy Brookes. Baldwin responded to the news with a rise of 1p to 148p.

opened at 184p and moved narrowly to close at 182p, an opening premium of 7p.

Meanwhile, investors are taking the view that the insurance sector will be the next to attract overseas predators. Royal Insurance, the biggest British-based, non-life in-

surer, was chased up to 429p at one stage before closing 12p higher at 425p on a turnover of 2.3 million shares.

Buyers' appetites were whetted by talk that Mr John Spalvins's Adelaide Steamship was on the verge of selling its 6 per cent stake in the company to Winterthur, a Swiss group.

Dealers remain sceptical and said that it was hardly likely that Mr Spalvins would sell his stake at current market levels and incur a heavy loss. He paid more than £5 a share for his Royal shareholding last year.

Commercial Union, Britain's second largest composite insurer and a regular takeover favourite - in which Adelaide Steamship also retains a strategic holding - rose by 5p to 338p as more than 2 million shares changed hands.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, anticipates a strong bounce in the shares ahead of the first-quarter figures next month and is forecasting £46 million against £28.2 million last year.

Cable and Wireless returned to favour with a rise of 12p to 343p. Nearly 6 million shares changed hands as whispers in the market suggested that the company was considering placing 5 per cent of its shareholding in Hong Kong Telecom.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

NEW YORK

Dow dips 8 points in early trading

(Reuters) - Shares were broadly lower in early trading yesterday with blue chips recouping some opening losses. Mr Michael Metz, an Oppenheimer market strategist, said that the drop in jobless claims may have incited fears that the economy is overheating and that the Federal Reserve may tighten interest rates. First-time jobless claims fell to 275,000 in the week ended April 16 from

314,000 in the previous week. The Dow Jones industrial average fell by 8 points to 2,039.91 after dropping as low as 2,036. Declining shares outnumbered rising ones by two to one. Ford fell by 1/4 to 47 1/2 despite a report of record first-quarter earnings which exceeded analysts' expectations. On Wednesday, the Dow average closed 3.15 up at 2,047.91.

TOKYO

Bargain-hunting lifts Nikkei to record level

(Reuters) - Share prices closed sharply up on active bargain-hunting yesterday after Wednesday's fall, taking the Nikkei average to a new peak, despite the overnight passage of a sweeping trade bill by the US Senate, brokers said. The Nikkei average climbed 242.15 points, or 0.89 per cent, to a record 27,434.12. It lost 54.80 points on Wednesday.

Advancing shares led declining issues by five to two on turnover of 800 million shares against 750 million the previous day.

Communications, securities house, electrical, bank, pharmaceutical, credit-lease, airline, warehouse and service shares gained ground.

Only some manufacturing and rolling stocks fell slightly.

SYDNEY

Shares rise in hesitant trade

(Reuters) - Share prices closed higher yesterday, but brokers said the market's improved performance did little to dispel hesitation among buyers and sellers.

The All-Ordinaries index gained 6.2 points to close at 4,449.8 and the All-Industrials index rose 10.9 points to finish at 2,329.1.

Volume totalled 123.5 million shares. Advancing issues outnumbered declining shares by 255 to 220.

HONG KONG

Prices slip in quiet market

(Reuters) - Share prices closed slightly lower in fairly quiet trading yesterday, brokers said.

The Hang Seng index eased 3.88 points to close at 2,588.14 on turnover of 913.85 million against Wednesday's 837.90 million.

Among leaders, Jardine Matheson eased 20 cents to HK\$12.40, Cheung Kong 10 cents to HK\$7.40, and Hutchison Whampoa 5 cents to HK\$8.40.

WALL STREET

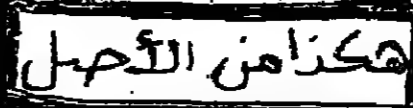
Table with columns for various stock indices and individual stock prices. Includes sections for AMR, ASA, AUSA, etc., and a CANADIAN PRICES section at the bottom right.

Large advertisement for Mentor training. Text includes: 'WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO MAKE MORE OF YOUR COMPANY'S BIGGEST ASSET.' and 'Mentor Leaders in the Training Revolution'.

Advertisement for ANADIN pain relief. Text includes: 'For ASPIRIN pain relief TAKE ANADIN FAST PAIN RELIEF' and 'the proven formula'.



STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares mark time



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end May 6. Settlement day May 9. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: 26)

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Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Sunday Total.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British Funds with columns: High/Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield, P/E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table of funds with performance over 15 years.

UNDATED

Table of undated funds.

INDEX-LINKED

Table of index-linked funds.

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table of banks and discount houses.

BREWERIES

Table of brewery stocks.

BUILDING, ROADS

Table of building and road stocks.

FINANCE, LAND

Table of finance and land stocks.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table of chemicals and plastics stocks.

CINEMAS, TV

Table of cinema and TV stocks.

DRAPERY, STORES

Table of drapery and store stocks.

HOTELS, CATERERS

Table of hotel and caterer stocks.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table of industrial stocks A-D.

ELECTRICALS

Table of electrical stocks.

INSURANCE

Table of insurance stocks.

E-K

Table of stocks E-K.

FINANCE, LAND

Table of finance and land stocks.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts.

FOODS

Table of food stocks.

L-R

Table of stocks L-R.

S-Z

Table of stocks S-Z.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table of overseas trader stocks.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table of paper, print, and advertising stocks.

PROPERTY

Table of property stocks.

MINING

Table of mining stocks.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table of motor and aircraft stocks.

TEXTILES

Table of textile stocks.

TOBACCO

Table of tobacco stocks.

SHIPPING

Table of shipping stocks.

OILS, GAS

Table of oil and gas stocks.

SHOES, LEATHER

Table of shoe and leather stocks.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table of newspaper and publisher stocks.

TOBACCO

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Up 8 points... Nikkei... Tokyo...

Advancing shares led... Nikkei... Tokyo...

Prices slip in quiet market... Nikkei... Tokyo...

Among leaders, Jardine... Nikkei... Tokyo...

Table of Japanese stock prices.

CANADIAN STOCKS

Table of Canadian stock prices.

For SPIRIN in relief TAKE... NADIN... proven formula.

Main table containing various unit trust information, including fund names, managers, and performance metrics. Columns include fund names, managers, and performance data.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company names, prices, and other financial details.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Dollar, and Euro.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates, including Treasury bills, discount rates, and other financial instruments.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts, listing various funds and their performance metrics.

Vertical text on the right side of the page, including news snippets and advertisements.

01-481 4000 PRIVATE ADVERTISERS

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

01-481 4422 TRADE ADVERTISERS

FOLLETT

Table listing car models, prices, and specifications. Includes models like 924S MAN 87D Alpine White/Black Trim Sunroof PAS Alarm, 944 LUX MAN 85C Alpine White/Black Trim Sunroof PDM 215/60 Tyres, etc.

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SAAB SAAB 900 16 Val. Acc. SSR. F81i, silver/white, grey, 6 speed, 1700cc, 1984, 31,200 miles. Tel: 041 429 2888

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Toyota takes a lead-free gamble

Toyota's Celica GT has been around for a couple of years. In that time it has been widely acclaimed as one of the best coupes in the world. Now it has been joined by a "big brother" - the Celica GT-Four - which sets a number of firsts in the British market.



Celica GT-Four: acceleration and road-holding are breathtaking

It is also the first on general sale with a catalytic converter which means it can use only unleaded petrol. With fewer than 600 cars being sold, the GT-Four is taking quite a gamble - and so are those buying the GT-Four.

However, to ease their minds they will find a free five-litre fuel can in the boot, four-wheel drive, ABS anti-lock brakes and a water-cooled turbo charger which boosts the power of the 16-valve, fuel-injected engine by 32 per cent to 182 BHP. Even more importantly, torque goes up by 42 per cent and the improvement is spread across the rev band.

Acceleration and road holding are breathtaking. Four-wheel drive gives a car exceptional cornering ability. It has one frightening consequence, however: there is no warning when it is about to come "unstuck". As this happens only during high speed cornering the resulting accident is usually very serious. I can only report that despite repeated provocation, the GT-Four never lost traction and gave me great confidence at all times.

The power-assisted steering has a nice feel and although the suspension is stiffened to cope with all that power the ride is surprisingly comfortable. Rear passenger space is limited but still coped with three for a short journey. At £20,495 it is a very tempting alternative to a two-wheel drive, non-turbo Porsche 924.

Vital Statistics

Model: Toyota Celica GT-Four Price: £20,495 Engine: 1998cc turbo Performance: 0-60mph 7.7 seconds, maximum speed 138mph Official consumption: Urban 24.7mpg, 56mph 39.6mpg and 75mph 51.5mpg Length: 14.4ft Insurance: 8/9

Classy launch for the opulent new Jaguar

It would be difficult to find a more appropriate setting for the launch of Jaguar's new XJ-S Convertible than the millionaires' playground of the Côte d'Azur. It is a car for people who want to be envied and last week at Juan Les Pins it was one of them. By coincidence, my red sports shirt matched the colour of the car and topped by the sports car driver's traditional "flat cap" I was ready to pose with the best.

The fabulous Jaguar V12 5.3 litre engine accelerates from 0-60mph in 7.9 seconds and will top 150mph despite an all up weight approaching two tons. The body in fact weighs 2200lbs more than the coupe from which it is derived because of the additional strengthening required for an open car plus the hood mechanism and quarterlight assemblies.



Citroën AX GT: unexpected test of toughness

Good news for owners of Citroën's new AX Supermini. Quite unintentionally I put doubts about its strength to the test and it came through with flying colours. The doubts arose because of the AX's exceptional lightness and use of some plastic body panels.

at some speed. The Ford's offside headlamp was smashed and the bumper caved in. I had to look closely before I found a small scratch on the AX's moulded plastic rear bumper. Knecks like this sometimes result in hidden damage such as corrugation of the boot floor. I made closer inspection at home without discovering a single ripple. Citroën have since confirmed this in their workshops.

Driving the AX GT last week I stopped at a lights-controlled pedestrian crossing and a Ford Fiesta hit my rear

at some speed. The Ford's offside headlamp was smashed and the bumper caved in. I had to look closely before I found a small scratch on the AX's moulded plastic rear bumper.

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CRICKET: RICHARDS LEADS A WEST INDIES SIDE THAT CONTAINS SEVERAL UNPROVEN PLAYERS BUT WHICH WILL BE FAVOURED TO WIN TEST SERIES

Touring party will lack that familiar air of invincibility

The West Indies touring side that arrives in London on Sunday is by no means as invincible as the teams that beat England 5-0 in 1984 and again in 1985-86 in the Caribbean. The resilience it showed, though, in travelling the series with Pakistan here on Wednesday, entitles it to start as favourites for the Test match which starts at Nottingham on June 2.

Since their last triumph against England, West Indies have shared four successive Test series - against Pakistan home and away and in New Zealand and in India. Their crown as unofficial world champions may have slipped a little but they remain on the throne and are still difficult to beat.

It was unfortunate that Pakistan's hectic, short visit did not allow a five-match series. For the two strongest sides in the world to be restricted to an abbreviated programme was frustrating. Some magnificent cricket was played and the second and third Tests, in particular, were among the most thrilling which have taken place anywhere in recent years.

Pakistan's victory at Georgetown, after they had been beaten 3-0 in the one-day games, whetted the appetite and hinted that something special might be in the wind. The return of Richards and Marshall made all the difference in Port of Spain, where West Indies narrowly failed to win. Finally, West Indies won a fluctuating match here by two wickets to retain their record of not having lost a home series for 15 years.

Captain gives thanks

Bridgetown (Reuters) - The West Indies captain, Viv Richards, shed some tears after his side's win by two wickets in the third Test match against Pakistan on Wednesday. He said he was so tense he could not bear to watch the last over.

WEST INDIES AND PAKISTAN TEST AVERAGES. Tables showing batting and fielding averages for both teams.



70 not out: Denis Compton plays a straight bat as Keith Miller waits at slip at Lord's yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warburton)

The intoxicating talent of Sobers

Who was the greatest all-round cricketer of them all? Here, in his foreword to Sir Gary Sobers' autobiography 'SIR DONALD BRADMAN assesses the claims of the contenders. Hammond, Miller, Davidson, Bennett and Botham are all 'dismissed' as Sir Donald finds that none can match Sir Gary's virtuosity.



Sobers: elemental power

genius shone the brightest. I shared Constantine's view of his power and nothing will ever erase from my memory two shots I saw him play. One was at the Adelaide Oval. The bowler was Alan Davidson, a left-hander of not inconsiderable pace. Davidson bowled a bumper at Sobers. The ball rose roughly shoulder high and, off his back foot, with a horizontal blade, Sobers hit him over mid-on for six, the ball landing halfway on the bill just under the scoreboard. It was unbelievable.

Back in 1930-31 I played against the first West Indian cricket team to tour Australia. One of the visitors was Lesie Constantine, one of the most dynamic players in the game's history. When his playing days were over he became renowned in the world of politics and before his death had become Lord Constantine.

As a bowler he handled the new ball with excellent control of swing and later in a match could bowl orthodox first-finger spin or googlies off the third finger. This versatility made him a captain's dream, even though I think it was the main reason why his total career wickets were a little more costly than those of some of his contemporaries. It is extraordinarily difficult to bowl every variety with pin-point accuracy.

COMPARISON OF ALL-ROUNDERS IN TEST CRICKET

Table comparing batting and fielding statistics for various all-rounders like Sobers, Hammond, Miller, Davidson, Bennett, and Botham.

FISHING

Time's fly returns to fashion

The importance of the March Brown in fly fishing for lake trout was established more than 80 years ago at the then newly opened Blagdon Lake. In a day's fishing at Blagdon in 1905, two fishermen, White and Hardy Corfe, between them took 20 trout which had an average weight of just 4lb 7oz.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Barnet best championship bet in nerve-jangling finish

After another seven days of rapidly changing fortunes in what has become a nerve-jangling finish to the race for the GM Vauxhall Conference championship, Barnet will go into the final week of the season tomorrow as favourites for the title and promotion to the fourth division.

Top of the table. Table showing league positions and points for Barnet, Watford, and other teams.

CYCLING

Milk Race selection is at stake

Britain's professionals will be aiming to be among the first 10 finishers during the Lancashire Enterprises five-stage tour which starts tonight at Burscough. The 300-mile Am-Pro race will decide which two home professional teams qualify for next month's Milk Race, giving the event extra spice.

SCHOOLS SPORTS

Eagles unbeaten on French tour

The Eagles began as a prep school side in 1969, but now take both an under-13 and under-15 team on tour. They have just returned from their nineteenth trip, the last 15 of which have been to France, and for the third year running both teams won all four matches against Trignac, La Rochelle, a Selection XV and Rochefort and Surges combined.

BOWLS

of great potential

A tournament which, it is hoped, will serve as a prototype for an official women's world indoor singles championship starts at Llanelli today, nine years after the introduction of the sport to the women's championship at Coedbychan.

CRICKET

Barclays League Third division

Southdown v York (7.45) Fourth division Cambridge v Bolton (7.45) Colchester v Stockport (8.15) Grays v Harlow (8.15)

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various football fixtures including Bristol Gloucestershire v Gussies, Colchester v Stockport, and others.

SPORT ON TV

BASEBALL 1988: ITV 4 p.m. (Tomorrow); SLUG: Channel 5 New York Mets; GOLF: WPGA Ford classic (at Woburn); MOTOR: Sportsman's Club; SNOKKER: Embassy world professional championship (at Sheffield); SOUL: Racers: Spain; WRESTLING: European championship (at National Sports Centre, Cardiff).

CRICKET

Headley's tour form is a tasty sample

RGS Worcester has just returned from an Easter tour to Zimbabwe in which they gained valuable experience. Headley took 11 wickets in the last two matches, suggesting a taste of things to come.

HANG GLIDING

Leden chasing British title

Judy Leden, the world and European champion, is hoping to add the British title to her tally over the next four days in the Yorkshire dales (a Special Correspondent writes). Leden, 28, has never won the event, despite glittering results in competitions against men.

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Cause for concern as England's early promise fades

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent
England have yet to make any progress on their road towards the European championship.

In this pocket was a complete set of the England squad for the last Sunday and the 1988 European Championship in Italy.

But over the last five months the whole party, with the notable exception of the captain, has been on the retreat.

Irish success story continues its run

By Clive White
Seven down and seven to go. No one in his right mind believes that the Republic of Ireland can ride their wave of success right through to the final of the European championship.

Whether it was Sheridan or McGrath that Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, had come to watch, he could not have been too disappointed.

Street violence diverts Roxburgh's attention

By Roddy Forsyth
When Andy Roxburgh sat down yesterday to review the worth of Scotland's excursion to Spain, the performance of the national side was of secondary importance.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Football results including Premier League, Football League, and various cup matches.

Spirit of the sky in race to be ready

Tony Bellmore, Britain's top solo sailor, watched anxiously yesterday as the Sikorsky helicopter hoisted 80 feet above a farmyard just outside Bristol.

However, the three peccolite-hull craft were winging their way across the fields towards the Royal Dock, the miles later, the trimaran was safely in the water and the Sikorsky was on her way back to collect the yacht's mast.

Ballimore and his yacht should have completed a 500-mile qualifying cruise—requiring a port and a safety—all transatlantic entrants—by March 31, but in view of Ballimore's previous experience, the race organizers granted the new boat dispensation to qualify after the deadline.

Crispin shows his inconsistencies

By George Ace
Billy Bingham has achieved much as a player and as a manager of Northern Ireland. Capped 56 times, he led the team that reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Sweden in 1958.

Setback to Soviet title hopes

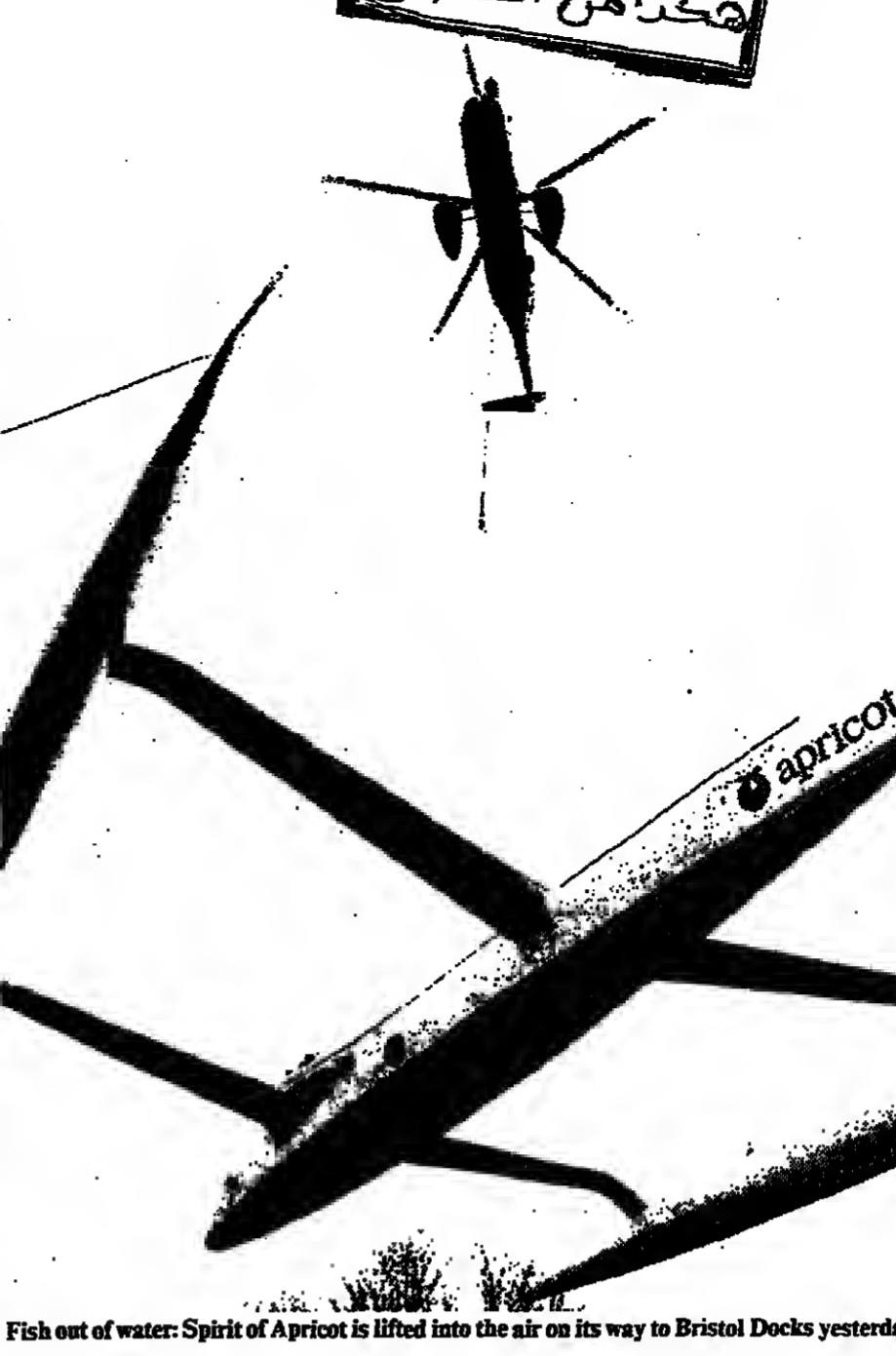
By Chris Than
The technical commission of the European Weightlifting Federation has banned the Israeli Miłoszowa, of the Soviet Union, from the European championships.

Winter Olympics

Lausanne (AP) — The city of Lausanne, home of the International Olympic Committee, has backed a candidacy for hosting the 1994 Winter Games.

BASEBALL, TENNIS, CRICKET, GOLF, EVENING RACING, FOOTBALL
Summary of various sports results.

YACHTING: TIME IS AGAINST BRITISH CHALLENGER FOR TRANS-ATLANTIC RACE



Fish out of water: Spirit of Apricot is lifted into the air on its way to Bristol Docks yesterday

Crispin shows his inconsistencies Murray likely to rely on monohull

From Barry Pickhall, Hyères
The inconsistency of the Finn sailor, Lawrence Crispin, yesterday provided a perfect display of the best and the worst attributes of the present crop of Olympic sailors.

Jennings is called up again for manoeuvres

By Sydney Friskin
Ian Jennings, of the Army, who made seven appearances for England in 1985, has been called up to represent the British at Lillehall from May 6 to 8.

Two-year deal for England

By Colin McQuillan
The England women's squads, world team champions at both senior and senior level, yesterday received a £50,000 two-year sponsorship contract from Shield Sport, aimed at maintaining their international superiority.

FOOTBALL
Results from various football leagues including the Premier League and others.

Absentees make it an easy ride for Becker

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Hamburg
Rod Laver often comments that these days, every round is tough, whereas, 20 years ago or so, the better players usually had an easy run to the quarter-finals.

The celebrities in action have mostly gathered at an independent tennis tournament in Atlanta. That is a symptom (the proliferation of pre-Wimbledon events is another) of a growing challenge to the grand prize.

Journalist inquiry led to ban

From Barry Wood, Barcelona
The spectre of apartheid yesterday cast its shadow on the international tennis championships of Spain, when Kim Lubuschagne, aged 18, from South Africa, was forbidden to play her first-round match against the Spanish No. 1, Arantxa Sánchez.

Journalist inquiry led to ban

The official reason was that Lubuschagne had been incorrectly advised by the authorities in Houston that she required only a tourist visa to compete.

Wincanton

Wincanton racing results including various horse races and their odds.

